

March 31, 2019 - JUST SAY YES

God invites each of us to a closer relationship with Him. **Just say yes** to His personal invitation and your life will be changed. Do not be afraid to say yes. Trust in Him. With Him, everything is possible.

Over the last seven years, we have had the joy of having dozens of **seminarians** assisting us at OLHOC (some of them over long period of times, others for short-term assignments). Whenever they shared their vocation stories, you may recall that their discernment to enter the seminary was never an easy one, but in the end they responded generously to God's call. **They said: Yes!** Their lives were changed, and all of us were touched by their witness talks.

Last weekend, we had the joy to listen to witness talks by four of our youth at the end of each Mass. They may have been hesitant to accept the invitation to address a full assembly in the church, **but they said yes**, and we all benefitted from their enthusiasm in sharing how their lives have been changed by activities they attend at our parish, including the Sunday LifeTeen meetings, youth camps, pilgrimages or spiritual retreats such as Steubenville or Mount St Mary. I know their witness talks will lead to many of our youth to follow in their footsteps. I know many parents were listening. The fruits of our youth activities can be seen at the monthly 4 pm Youth Mass. When we began the 4 pm Youth Masses three years ago, we may have had 30 to 40 participants. Over the last three months, close to 300 people may have attended, including a large number of parents, sponsors, and mentors! The Lord is good: all the time! Let us thank the Lord for the gift of our youth and of all our staff/volunteers! Thanks also to all of you for your generous support to the parish, including our Youth Pilgrimage Fund! Your support makes all our youth activities a reality!

Whenever we attend Mass, we say yes to God's invitation to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him. God Father, Son or Holy Spirit - is always taking the initiative. When Jesus asks **the Samaritan woman** at the well, a non-Jewish woman; " give me a drink", she is puzzled but this will be the beginning of her discovering who Jesus is: not only a prophet who knows all the sins of her past, but the Savior of the world, the one who can give her that living water leading to eternal life! **She says yes to Jesus**. She becomes not only the first convert (in John's Gospel - chapter 4) but she becomes the first

evangelizer (asking her fellow villagers to come and meet the Messiah).

Like the Samaritan woman, we all seek eternal life: we are all thirsting for this living water, for this great Gift of God, the Holy Spirit pouring God's graces into our hearts. Unlike the Samaritan woman, we do not have to go to seek water at Jacob's well to have an encounter with Jesus. **Jesus comes to us every time we go to Mass**. He loves each one of us personally. He wants to talk to us (first and foremost through the Gospel). He wants to give himself totally to us in the Eucharist. He invites each of us, like the Samaritan woman, to give him a drink, to satisfy his thirst for our Faith and our Love. He wants us to feel His personal love in our lives not just when things go well, but all the time, and especially when we face severe difficulties, such as the loss of a loved one, very poor health, or major disputes at the workplace or within our families. He says to each one of us: come to me all who are weary and I give you rest! Next time Jesus asks you: **"Do you believe** that I love you despite your sins, that I thirst for your love, that I die for your sins, that I rise from the dead, that I ascend into heaven, that I want you to be with me right now on earth but also in heaven for ever and ever?" **Just say yes! Yes, Jesus I trust in you!**

What did Mary say to God? She said: Yes! And that yes not only changed her life, but it changed the whole world. We celebrated her yes to God last Monday March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the celebration of the Mystery of the Incarnation, the day "God became man". On that day for the first time since the Fall of Adam and Eve, Heaven and earth met. We celebrate this Mystery at every Mass, not only on March 25. At every Mass, Heaven and earth meet. Jesus is asking you: **"Do you believe that the Mass is Heaven on earth?" Just say yes!**

Come Holy Spirit! Help us to hear Jesus whisper into our ears and hearts! Come Holy Spirit! Help us to hear God's call! Come Holy Spirit, help us to understand what we need to change in our lives! Come Holy Spirit, make our hearts humble and obedient to God's will! **Come Holy Spirit, help us to say yes to God!**

One in Christ,

Father Alain

