

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KHS Pastor

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. John O'Connor

Rev. Brian Muzás

Latin Mass Assistants

Weekend Assistants

Br. Angelus CFR

Parish Seminarian

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella

Religious Education

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Gail McElroy & Jerry Pulis

Jr. High School Ministry

Curtiss & Katie Stella

High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee



Sunday, October 23, 2016 A.D.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:30pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

First Saturday: 8:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday: 12:00pm Mass for Souls in Purgatory

Sundays: at 3:00pm Group Rosary

Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

Rosary: Recited M - Sat after 8:00am & 12Noon Mass.

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 2:00-3:00pm

Thursday-Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction: 7:00pm

Friday-Exposition & Adoration: 12:30PM-3:00pm

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am. First Friday at 7:00pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:25pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.

WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00pm, 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)
9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,
1:00pm (Spanish)
6:00pm & 7:00pm

Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00a.m. & 12:00noon



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
201-768-1400
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent
201-768-1705

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **OLV PARISH** may be restored to health and all those who **ASSIST** and **CARE** for the sick will be given the **STRENGTH** to continue **GOD'S GOOD WILL**: Br. Pius, Joseph Accardi, Maria Aleman, William Biasi, John Bolger, Michael Conmy, Ellen Dunn, Sr. Cordelia, Catherine Fallon, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Thomas Haring, Marianne Harkins, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Michael Lawten, Jamie & Kerrie Lein, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaehi, Teresa Meierdierks, Kathleen Musante, Canice Prince, Dan Ragnusa, Mary Rinner, Danny Rizzi, Ginny Romeo, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie & George Rush, Cynthia Simonelli, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Darien Wesler, Marian Zanetti, Elaine Zito.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"It is increasingly intolerable that financial markets are shaping the destiny of people rather serving their needs, or that the few derive immense wealth from financial speculation while the many are deeply burdened by the consequences." **Pope Francis**

WISDOM

One Saint, when confronted with the problems in his life, would say, "What is this compared to eternity?" This puts everything into perspective. To make this point more clear, is it better to die at ten or at ninety? Ten, if you believe that heaven is everything that God says it is. If you say ninety, you are looking at the world through the eyes of man. If you are looking through the eyes of God, the ten year old is the one more blessed. We must look at life through the perspective of eternity. When we start to stumble off the path of wisdom, we ought to look at Proverbs 9:10, which tells us where wisdom begins. It says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Live to please Him. The only thing that should make us afraid is displeasing our Father. If we want to walk in wisdom, we must first ask for the fear of God. Live not for what the world thinks of you, but for what God thinks of you. When we stop looking at the world and start looking at God, then we'll be on the road to wisdom.

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession **at a minimum once a month**. This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to 12:00Noon and 3:00-3:25PM. Monday thru Friday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 7:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

CLOTHING BINS

The beauty of Fall with its cool temperatures and beautiful foliage displays energizes most people. Would you be willing to channel some of your energy to gather any unwanted clothing, shoes, small appliances, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, and books (no reference books) for the Catholic Charities clothing bin? Thank you.

ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday s from 12:00Noon—3:00PM, Thursday night from 7:00PM—8:00PM, and Fridays from 12:00Noon – 3:00PM. **So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.**

STEWARDSHIP

MY FAMILY – MY PARISH – MY RESPONSIBILITY

If you are away for the weekend or are on vacation, please mail Your Weekly Offering to the Rectory.

Our expenses continue even in your absence.

They mock Catholics

Reprinted from Catholic Vote.Org

Last Wednesday, Wikileaks released transcripts of an email exchange entitled "Conservative Catholicism" between Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, campaign spokesperson Jennifer Palmieri, and John Halpin, a staffer at the Clinton allied Center for American Progress. In the email thread Halpin mocks News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch and Robert Thompson, Managing Editor of Wall Street Journal, for raising their kids Catholic. Halpin writes about these Catholics: "They must be attracted to the systematic thought and severely backwards gender relations and must be totally unaware of Christian democracy..." Clinton spokesperson Palmieri agreed: "I imagine they think it is the most socially acceptable politically conservative religion. Their rich friends wouldn't understand if they became evangelicals." Halpin replied: "Excellent point. They can throw around 'Thomistic' thought and 'subsidiarity' and sound sophisticated because no one knows what the hell they're talking about." Aside from their blatant bigotry and ignorance about the philosophy and social teachings of Catholicism, does anyone notice a pattern here? Hillary has already called half of her opponents' supporters 'a basket of deplorables' and 'irredeemable.' Now we get a glimpse of what her staff and friends think about Catholics in particular: They mock Catholic converts. They ridicule Catholics for raising their kids Catholic. They call our faith 'severely backwards.' Make no mistake, had Clinton staff and allies spoken this way about other groups, they would be dismissed. Just imagine if Clinton's spokesperson was caught calling prominent Muslims or Jewish converts frauds for embracing their faith and mocking them for doing so because it was socially acceptable. This morning we called on Jennifer Palmieri to resign immediately from the Clinton campaign. Let's shut down their campaign phone lines until Jennifer Palmieri is dismissed or resigns! Let's spread the word. Forward this email to your Catholic friends everywhere. Call Hillary for America Headquarters now and tell them you are disgusted by the anti-Catholic comments made by spokesperson Jennifer Palmieri. **Hillary for America Brooklyn Office 646-854-1432**

LET THEM KNOW CATHOLICS WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Maximillian "Jude" Rossmann, winner of the OLV Catholic Daughters Gladys Heyliger/Mary Carley \$1,000.00 scholarship. The stipend is awarded to the student attending a Catholic High School in the Fall of 2016, and has written the best essay depicting how they will live the Catholic faith.

ALL SOULS INTENTIONS

We are asking that your ALL SOULS INTENTION ENVELOPES be returned to the rectory as soon as possible in order that we may place the intentions and names on the altar on ALL SOULS DAY and for the following nine days for the ALL SOULS NOVENA. The envelope intentions will remain on the altar for the entire month of November, which is dedicated to the POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY.

CCD CORNER

This month our teachers and students are praying the Rosary before class. The power of this prayer is enormous and has led millions of people into establishing a closer and loving relationship with our Lord and His Blessed Mother. Last week during at the 10:45 Mass we introduced our 2nd Graders to the parish as our First Communion Class and bestowed a special blessing on their parents. Each time when they (as well as the Confirmation Candidates) come to Mass they are to write their names in our **Sacramental Prayer Book** which is located in the atrium. These books then will be brought up at every 10:45 Mass and placed on the altar as a reminder for all our parishioners to keep these young people in your prayers.

Well done is better than well said.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

- Oct 23—Sun—Rosary Society-Rosary 9:00AM/Installation Mass 9:30AM
- Oct 25 -Tue—Moms, Pops and Tots 11:30AM-1:30PM * *New Time!*
- Oct 25-Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
- Oct 25—Tue—Catholic Daughters 7:00PM
- Oct 26—Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
- Oct 26 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
- Oct 28 -Fri– Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
- Oct 29 - Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00Noon & 3:00-3:25PM
- Oct 29 -Sat—AA - lower Church 6:30-8:30PM
- Oct 30-Sun-Jr. Youth Group 6:00-7:30PM
- Nov 13-Sun-Jr. Youth Group 6:00PM
- Nov 19/20—Sat/Sun—Catholic Daughters Christmas Gift Sale

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

- Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
- Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
- Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
- 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
- Major Michael Franson, US Army;
- Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
- Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
- Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
- Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
- Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
- Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
- 2nd Lieutenant Gigi McElroy, US Army;
- Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
- Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

Men's Day 2016

October 29, at Most Blessed Sacrament Friary, 375 13th Avenue, Newark. Open Registration 8:00AM, free admission. Music 9:00AM, Welcome 9:30, Speaker Rev. Giuseppe Siniscalchi, CFR. Holy Mass 4:15PM. Confessions available throughout the day. newarkfriary.org.

CATHOLIC HS CO-OP TEST

In order to apply to the 32 Catholic high schools in the four counties within the Archdiocese of Newark, students in the 8th grade must take the 2017 COOP Exam. The exam will be given on Friday, November 11, 2016. For more info, visit www.coopexam.org.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service Organization and is the largest Fraternal Organization in the world with a total membership of 1.8 million members and over 64,000 members in New Jersey. From the moment of their founding in 1882, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. All men over 18 are invited to join the OLV parish Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. Upcoming events include paintball expedition, skeet-shooting and golf outing. For info, call Greg Evarella 201-784-5752.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR INNER-CITY CHILDREN BENEFIT CONCERT

The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City children is hosting a Benefit Concert on Friday, October 28, at Enlow Hall on the campus of Kean University. 100% of proceeds from the event will provide low-income students from grade K-12 with partial tuition scholarships to attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Newark. The concert will feature The Dominoes from St. Dominic Academy, VOX from St. Peter's Prep, Tim McLoone and the Shirleys and acclaimed operatic soprano singer, Maureen Francis. For tickets visit KeanStage.com/SFIC or call 908-737-7469.

"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way."

St. Francis of Assisi

PLEASE OBEY PARKING LAWS

One cannot park in a crosswalk or block a driveway.

One needs to park 25 feet from a crosswalk or corner.

One needs to park 50 feet from a stop sign.

Parking is prohibited on Harriot Ave between Elliot and Lynn.

EXPLANATION OF GOD:

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leaves that to mothers and fathers. "God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. And God did not let Jesus stay in the grave, but raised him from the dead.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'

(If you believe in God, please pass this on, and may God bless you too.)

NEW HOPE

Your Bergen County alternative-to-abortion outreach program for single moms and their babies. Be part of the solution! Newcomers are welcome. For info, email newhopeinc@verizon.net.

**One of the most profoundly human things
you can do is to talk to someone instead of about them.**

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Sun., Oct. 30, Don Bosco Prep, Ramsey, 1-3PM. 12:00 Mass preceding open house in St. John's Chapel. Call 201-327-8003 or register online www.donboscoprep.org under "Admissions"..

Wed., Nov. 2, St. Joseph Regional HS, Montvale, 6:30-9:00PM for 6th, 7th, 8th grade boys and their families. For info call 201-391-3300 or register at www.sjrnj.org.

Thu., Nov. 3, Immaculate Heart Academy, Township of Washington, 6:30PM. Call 201.445.6800.

Feeding the Homeless

As part of our parish commitment to the community and to serving those less fortunate, we will be preparing and serving a lunch meal on Saturday, November 5, at St. John's Church Soup Kitchen in Newark. This service is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus council. All parish members (men, women and children) are welcome to participate, even if not a current member of the Knights. For more information, contact Sergio sminervini@starkcarpet.com.

OLV Boys & Girls Needed

Our Lady of Victories has a basketball program for you. The sign-up for basketball is in October. Practices begin shortly thereafter, and the games begin in December. All Boys and Girls from grades Kindergarten to 8th grade who would like to play basketball or would like more info please contact John or KerryAnn Flahive at 201-750-2214.

New Jersey Adoption Law

Beginning January 1, 2017, adoptees and certain relatives will be able to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate without a court order. The birth certificate will include the names of the birth parents who placed children for adoption unless a birth parent requests their name be omitted. Birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a Redaction Request Form to the NJ Department of Health no later than December 31, 2016. The Redaction Request Form can be obtained by calling 866-649-8726, x582 or downloading it at <http://nj.gov/health/forms/reg-36c.pdf>. The Catholic Church has always supported reunions between adoptees and birth parents, if such reunions were by mutual consent. The Church continues to do so through their Catholic Charities agencies. If you know individuals that could be effected by the changes to NJ Adoption law, please help alert them. For assistance call 609-989-4809.

"IS MY TIME UP?"

A 65 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience.. Seeing God, she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 33 years, 2 months and 8 days to live." Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 33 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?" God replied:" I didn't recognize you!!!

WE ARE AT WAR

Dear Parents, not only are we at war in the Middle East; we are in a spiritual battle for the souls of our children each and every day. On Tuesday afternoons from 2:00PM-3:15PM we have a group who are praying the **Mary - Mother of All Nations Novena** to help win this war – come join us in this crucial battle.

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 24 – St. Anthony Mary Claret of Spain

8:00 Paul Kaske R/b David and Kathleen Musante

12:00 Bernadine Scorza R/b Andrew and Marcia Oakes

Tuesday, October 25–St. Gaudentius of Brescia, Italy-Bishop

8:00 Rev. Zachary H. Monet, O.Carm. R/b Pat Consoli

12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias

Wednesday, October 26–St. Demetrius of Dalmatia-Martyr

8:00 Senko Skific R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich

12:00 Maria Tarabocchia R/b Nick Tarabocchia

Thursday, October 27-BI. Emilina of France-Lay Cistercian Sister

8:00 Sam Burruano R/b the Russo Family

12:00 Elaine Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran

Friday, October 28 – Saints Simon and Jude - Apostles

8:00 Pasquale Merola R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara

12:00 Christine Cascone R/b the Duggan Family

Saturday, October 29–St. Narcissus – Bishop of Jerusalem

8:00 Francis Clawson R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara

12:00 Elizabeth Clark R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel

4:00 Robert Jordan R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi

5:00 Stephen Mancision R/b Don and Liz Ulisse

Sunday, October 30–St. Marcellus the Centurion, Martyr-Spain

7:30 Frances M. Schmitt R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel

8:15 Theresa Corcoran R/b the Evanelia Family

9:30 Claire K. Norton R/b Leo and Aline Gendron

10:45 Dominick Feragola R/b the Glennon Family

12:00 A little boy named Vinny R/b the Bresnak Family

1:00 People of the Parish

6:00 Alex Albert R/b the DiMeglio Family

7:00 Jane Mangano R/b Chris and Mary Oakes

Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Philip Miserendino, r/b Mike and Pat Franson.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Senko Skific, r/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich.

The St. Joseph Votive Votive Lamp burns for the souls in Purgatory.

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns for the unemployed.

The Hosts and Wine used at Mass this week have been donated in memory of Senko Skific, r/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich.

THE LOVE OF GOD

No matter how long it has been, the Love of God knows no time. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday at 11:00AM until 11:50AM and from 3:00PM–3:20PM. Monday-Saturday at 7:25AM–7:45AM.

ALTAR SERVERS WANTED

Boys and Girls (in 4th grade and up) interested in serving Mass should contact the rectory ASAP.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by the Rectory any weekday and meet Maria and register to become a member of the OLV Family. Census forms are also located in the Church vestibule

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. Judas. 2. St. Peter. 3. St. James the Greater. 4. St. Bartholomew. 5. St. John the Beloved.

As we grow up, we realize it is less important to have lots of friends and more important to have real ones.

October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Campaign 2016

Ignoring The Empty Cradle In The Room

GrassTopsUSA Exclusive Commentary

By Don Feder October 10, 2016

The presidential candidates are studiously ignoring the empty cradle in the room. How can voters even begin to think about the long-term consequences of the flight from marriage and the fateful fall of fertility, if they're treated as non-issues by candidates and politicians? For Clinton and Trump, family issues boil down to paid maternity leave and subsidized day care.

Fertility – it's not just about crop rotation. A country's future is found in the nursery. A nation's total fertility rate (TFR) refers to the number of children the average woman has in her lifetime. A TFR of 2.1 (replacement level) is needed to maintain current population. Once your TFR hits 1.3, you might as well put a "closed for business" sign on the door.

In 2014, for the first time since we began keeping these records in 1920, America achieved below-replacement fertility – 1.93, less than half of what it was in 1965. True, compared to Japan (whose population is declining by 100,000 a year), and the European Union (with a fertility rate of 1.5 – 60% below replacement), we're knee-deep in baby buggies and bassinets. But we're heading in the same direction, due to a common cultural rot. America is getting older and older. Children have gone from 36% of total population in 1960 to 24% in 2010, giving us a smaller childbearing base in each generation.

Due to better health care, the elderly are on the opposite trajectory. Seniors, who were 12.7% of total population in 2000, will reach 20.3% by 2050. The fiscal consequences of this shift are staggering. Social Security isn't a pension system. There are no investments. It's been correctly called an "inter-generational wealth transfer system," which works only as long taxpayer/donors substantially outnumber retiree/recipients.

In the decades ahead, fewer and fewer workers will be required to support a growing number of elderly. Politicians will try stopgap measures like raising the retirement age and increasing already onerous Social Security taxes. (Both parties have taken a reduction in benefits off the table.) Eventually will come rationing of medical services and euthanasia.

Forget paying off the National Debt, which has doubled to \$19.5 trillion under Obama. Annual interest on the debt alone will rise from an estimated \$480 billion in 2019 to \$722 billion in 2024. Unlike the Debt itself, this isn't a can that can be kicked down the road, but a burden which will consume a growing portion of the federal budget – crowding out defense spending and welfare.

Since Roe, we've killed over 60 million Americans in the womb – some minutes away from birth. The moral dimensions of this tragedy aside, think of it in demographic terms. All of the children who aren't born today, won't grow up to be the workers of tomorrow, whose contributions are needed to keep society functioning.

In April, Pope Francis posed a series of rhetorical questions to a group of reporters onboard his plane: "Don't you realize that ... the family throughout the world is in crisis? Don't we realize that the falling birth rate in Europe is enough to make one cry? And the family is the basis of society. Do you not realize that the youth don't want to marry?"

To understand the dimensions of the crisis, consider the following:

- In 1960, 72% of adults in this country were married. By 2008, the figure had fallen to 51%.

- Even more alarming, among 18-to-29-year-olds (in their prime child-bearing years), those married plummeted from 59% to 20% in the same period.

- In 1950, 78% of U.S. households consisted of parents and their children. By 2010, they represented less than half. This was celebrated by the mainstream media as the "death of Ozzie and Harriet."

- The rise of cohabitation parallels the decline of marriage – up 13% between 2009 and 2010 alone. These are relationships whose duration can be measured with a stopwatch. (Most last less than a year.) Instead of "till death do us part," it's "till I get bored or something better comes along."

- As George Gilder showed a generation ago in "Sexual Suicide," marriage tames anarchic male instincts. Married men buy houses with more than one bathroom and put money into college funds. Single men acquire status symbols on the higher end of the spectrum and join street gangs on the lower end.

- In 2009, 41% of all births were out of wedlock. The overwhelming majority of these children will grow up in single-parent homes and continue the family tradition of not forming intact families.

Our prisons, juvenile detention centers, drug rehab facilities, welfare roles and homeless shelters are filled with children from fatherless families.

According to the National Center for Fathering:

The poverty rate is four times higher for fatherless families. Among female-headed households, 47.6% are in poverty. (Marriage is the only anti-poverty program that actually works.) Children who grew up without fathers comprise 71% of both high-school dropouts and teen pregnancies.

Of youth in prison, 85% grew up without fathers. It's been estimated that a 1% increase of single-parent homes in a neighborhood results in a 3% increase in the level of adolescent violence. The thugs rampaging in urban areas every time there's a police shooting were not raised by Ozzie and Harriet.

"Family" isn't a campaign slogan. The decline of the family is the single greatest threat our civilization faces.

The family is where we learn life's most important lessons – diligence and decency, cooperation and compassion. In an increasingly turbulent world, family is an anchor.

Men work hardest to support families. (Perhaps one reason Millennials change jobs roughly every three years.) Patriotic sentiments aside, soldiers man the barricades in defense of hearth and home.

It all comes down to family. It always has; it always will. History started with the family (one man and one woman). The disappearance of the family will mark the end of history.

Current trends should be setting off alarm bells in our national consciousness. But word of the fire this time doesn't fit in a 10-second campaign spot.

Moms, Tots & Pops

OLV has a playgroup for infants and children ages 1-5. The group meets Tuesdays from 11:30AM to 1:30PM in the lower church.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Boys and girls in 7th and 8th grades are invited to meet in the OLV Gym on Sunday, October 30, from 6:00-7:30PM for the first Junior Youth Group meeting of the year. PIZZA will be served. Gigi McElroy and Jerry Pulis, our junior youth group leaders, can't wait to start the new year with you.

KIDZ KORNER

1. Which disciple of Jesus committed suicide?
2. Which disciple of Jesus was crucified upside down?
3. Which disciple of Jesus was beheaded in Jerusalem?
4. Which disciple of Jesus was burned alive?
5. Which disciple of Jesus died of old age?

Answers on page four.

"Either you believe that all human beings – no matter how small, weak, or handicapped – have a right to be protected, or you adopt a doctrine of 'a life unworthy to be lived' and recognize the need to eliminate the 'unfit'." **Rev. Richard Newhaus**