

Our Lady of Victories Church

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

www.olvhp.org

WELCOME

SUNDAY, September 22, 2019 A.D.

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Pastor

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC
In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Susan Evarella Denise Coulter
Religious Education

Selena Piazza Elizabeth Gulfo Michael Flynn
Lesla Rossmann Martin Coyne II Meagan Mullany
Ministers of Music Parish Trustees Jr. High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel
Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq. Jon Fischer CFA
President Parish Council Chairman Finance Committee

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 6:00pm Confessions followed by Devotions & Mass

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

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

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

St. Peregrine: First Friday of the Month

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

OLV Adoration Schedule Resumes

- * 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from after the 12 noon Mass till 3PM
- * Every Thursday Holy hour 7-8PM
- * Every Friday Adoration 12:30PM til 3PM
- * First Friday Adoration 12:30PM (after 12 Noon Mass),
6PM confessions, 6:30PM devotions, concludes with 7PM Mass
- * First Saturday Adoration 12:30PM till 1PM



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am.

First Friday at 6:30pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:40pm

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.

Latin Mass every Sunday 8:15AM

Spanish Mass every Sunday 1PM



Address:
Phone:
Email:

OLV Rectory
81 Lynn St. (Mailing)
201-768-1706
olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

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

OLV Convent
145 Parkway
201-768-1705

OLV Church physical address: 150 Harriot Ave.

Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Yes, the big day has come, Today I am officially being installed as a pastor. To be a priest is a *gift* and *mystery*. That's how Saint John Paul II wrote in his famous book for the 50th Anniversary of his priesthood. (you might consider it as a Christmas gift for any young man or a boy as a way of promoting vocations) I am very grateful to God for choosing me to be your pastor and I am grateful to you for welcoming me.

As I reflected these days upon such a great inadequacy of mine for such a great service in the church, I came across several memories and reflections. One is about a pastor who in order not to become too proud, from time to time would untie and remove his shoes before the homily to remember his humble origins and that he is just a servant. *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many Mt 20:28*. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as a sign, foreshadowing the great *washing of souls* in His Precious Blood. Two particular icons: Flight into Egypt and Entrance into Jerusalem caught my attention because both had a donkey in them. And that's exactly how I felt my mission was, just to be a donkey on which Jesus will ride. That humble animal was chosen by the Holy Family and by Jesus - not the horse. Both places become centers of God's intervention for humanity. Egypt for exodus from physical slavery and Jerusalem exodus from spiritual slavery of sin. Jesus goes first into Egypt and then to Jerusalem to fulfill the Scriptures: Out of Egypt have I called My Son (Ho 11:1 and Mt 2:15). "Jesus grants the definite Exodus....Jesus, the true Son, Himself went into 'exile' in a very deep sense, in order to lead all of us home from exile" (Pope Benedict XVI: *Jesus of Nazareth*, p. 111).

To underline even more the significance of it I wanted to share a beautiful story that I found. Enjoy reading it. Please pray for me!

THE BEAR OF ST. CORBINIAN

In his memoirs published in 1997, then-Cardinal Ratzinger commented on his life as a bishop, reflecting upon the image of the bear of St. Corbinian, founding bishop of Freising, the ancient see which is now the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, to which Cardinal Ratzinger was called to serve as archbishop. He relates the story to a meditation of St. Augustine on the text of verses 22 and 23 of Psalm 73 (72). St. Corbinian's bear: Christ's donkey. As the story goes, St. Corbinian was on his way to Rome when a bear attacked and killed his pack animal, his donkey. St. Corbinian rebuked the bear and placed the load of the donkey upon his back to carry to Rome. The story of the bear of St. Corbinian reminded the cardinal of St. Augustine's meditation on the verses of Psalm 73 which he translates thusly: "A draft animal am I before you, for you, and this is precisely how I abide with you" (Psalm 73:22-23; Joseph Ratzinger, *Milestones: Memoirs 1927-1977*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, page 155). The Cardinal, like St. Augustine, had chosen the life of a scholar, but God called him to take up the burdens of the episcopal office, eventually serving the Holy Father as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He comments on the frustrations which St. Augustine experienced in dealing with the many practical concerns of a pastor of souls, when he had in mind to carry out great intellectual and spiritual works. The text of the psalm reminded the saint and reminded Cardinal Ratzinger that God chose to keep them close to Him by having them serve as His "draft animals," carrying out the humble tasks of the pastoral office, rather than the exalted service which they had in mind for themselves. Relating the meditation of St. Augustine to the story of St. Corbinian's bear, Cardinal Ratzinger comments: "Just as the draft animal is closest to the farmer, doing his work for him, so is Augustine closest to God precisely through such humble service, completely within God's hand, completely His instrument. He could not be closer to his Lord or be more important to Him. The laden bear that took the place of St. Corbinian's horse, or rather donkey — the bear that became his donkey against its will: Is this not an image of what I should do and of what I am? "A beast of burden have I become for you, and this is just the way for me to remain wholly yours and always abide with you" (*Milestones*, pages 156-157). Taken from: Pope Benedict XVI: *Christ's humble servant homily of Archbishop Raymond L. Burke* in <https://ariseletusbegoing.com/2017/10/29/donkeys-are-the-best/>

Pastor in Canon Law

Can. 528 §1 The parish priest has the obligation of ensuring that the word of God is proclaimed in its entirety to those living in the parish. He is therefore to see to it that the lay members of Christ's faithful are instructed in the truths of faith, especially by means of the homily on Sundays and holydays of obligation and by catechetical formation. He is to foster works which promote the spirit of the Gospel, including its relevance to social justice. He is to have a special care for the catholic education of children and young people. With the collaboration of the faithful, he is to make every effort to bring the gospel message to those also who have given up religious practice or who do not profess the true faith.

§2 The parish priest is to take care that the blessed Eucharist is the center of the parish assembly of the faithful. He is to strive to ensure that the faithful are nourished by the devout celebration of the sacraments, and in particular that they frequently approach the sacraments of the blessed Eucharist and penance. He is to strive to lead them to prayer, including prayer in their families, and to take a live and active part in the sacred liturgy. Under the authority of the diocesan Bishop, the parish priest must direct this liturgy in his own parish, and he is bound to be on guard against abuses.

Can. 529 §1 So that he may fulfil his office of pastor diligently, the parish priest is to strive to know the faithful entrusted to his care. He is therefore to visit their families, sharing in their cares and anxieties and, in a special way, their sorrows, comforting them in the Lord. If in certain matters they are found wanting, he is prudently to correct them. He is to help the sick and especially the dying in great charity, solicitously restoring them with the sacraments and commending their souls to God. He is to be especially diligent in seeking out the poor, the suffering, the lonely, those who are exiled from their homeland, and those burdened with special difficulties. He is to strive also to ensure that spouses and parents are sustained in the fulfilment of their proper duties, and to foster the growth of christian life in the family.

HOLY and SACRED Hands

In one of Rembrandt's etchings, there is no halo around the Lord's head, but there is one around His hand. Over the years, critics have debated Rembrandt's reason for doing this. But there can be no debate over the meaning of that symbolism for us ...

Jesus' hands are holy hands. Jesus' hands are sacred hands.

Jesus used His holy, sacred hands as instruments of loving service.

Jesus used His holy, sacred hands to heal the sick, transform death into life, give sight to the blind.

Jesus used His holy, sacred hands to bless, break and give to the disciples the five loaves and two fish that fed so many thousands of His hungry followers.

Jesus' sacred hands changed the bread and wine into His Precious Body and Blood.

Jesus' sacred hands stretched and nailed on the Cross brought us back to God.

CCD Corner

CCD classes got off to a wonderful start last weekend! It is wonderful to see so many new families and to welcome back all students. Thanks to Fr. Wojciech for the beautiful Catechetical Sunday Mass where our volunteer teachers were honored. Father shared that the theme for this year is "Stay with Us" he emphasized that all that we do each day and by participating in Mass each week and attending class builds our faith in ways that we may not even realize. So, stay with us! Most importantly stay with Jesus!

The Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume this Sunday during the 10:45 Mass. Please note that there will be no CCD classes next Sunday and Monday September 29th and 30th.

Also, we are considering adding a kindergarten class on Monday. If you have a kindergarten student and are interested in a class, please call the CCD office at 201-768-1400 or email at olvhpccd@gmail.com.

Sundays are dedicated to the Holy Trinity

***OLV NEEDLERS** Wednesdays 6:30pm in the lower church

***CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS**

Save the Date! CDA Brunch Sunday, October 20

40 DAYS FOR LIFE - September 25th-November 3rd. We need your prayers! Join this campaign that draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer, fasting and standing in constant vigil outside the places where abortions are performed. Join us across from The Woman's Choice, 10 Zabriskie Street, Hackensack, 7AM-7PM, Monday through Sunday. For more information contact Margaret at 201-805-0937 or scullyfam@yahoo.com.

FAMILY PROMISE OF BERGEN COUNTY The program that provides assistance to working families with children who are temporarily experiencing homelessness is in need of volunteers. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church hosts several weeks each year. Please consider joining Sr. Elizabeth and other HP residents in staffing this remarkable program. For info contact Paul Shackford at pshackford@gmail.com or 201-768-6885.

"HEALING OUR CHURCH" A six-week gathering of small confidential groups to reflect, pray and express our feelings and thoughts on the sexual abuse of minors crisis in the Church will start this October 2019. If interested in participating contact St. Anthony Rectory in Northvale 201-768-1177.

CLOTHING BINS As the seasons transition now from summer to autumn, may we take some time to find items to donate to the Catholic Charities bins. Much needed items include clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, knickknacks, novels and children's books.

MARRIED COUPLES The next Marriage Encounter Weekend in North Jersey will be held on September 27-29. For info' contact Mike and Janet Turco at 973-427-7016. Visit www.wme.org for other weekend dates/locations.

High School Open Houses

Sunday, Sep 22 - Bergen Catholic, Oradell, 1-3PM. Register on Bergen Catholic website. Contact Matt Rosa at mrosa@bergencatholic.org.

Sunday, Sep 29 - St. Joseph Regional, Montvale, 11AM-2PM. Student-led tours at 11:15AM and 12:15PM. Register at www.sjrj.org.

Sunday, Oct 6 - Paramus Catholic, Paramus, 12-3PM and Tues, Oct 29, 6-8PM. Call 201-445-4466 x 104 for info.

Catholic HS Placement Test

8th graders planning to attend Catholic High School in Fall 2020! The High School Placement Test (HSPT) administered as part of the Cooperative Admissions Exam Program will be given on Friday, November 8, 2019. Register at www.njcoopexam.org. Visit www.catholicchoolsny.org for info. Catholic High Schools Expo Nights 7-8:30PM: *Tues., Sep. 24 Visitation Academy in Paramus * Wed., Sep. 25 Archdiocesan Ctr in Newark.*

Respect Life

Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance?

should **never** feel that abortion is her only option.

Personal & confidential assistance is available at the following:

- Archdiocesan Respect Life Office: 973-497-4350
- Gateway Pregnancy Center: Phone: 908-353-0604
- Catholic Community Services: 201-246-7379
- Birthright: 800-550-4900
- Lifecall: 800-662-2678

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 23 – St. Pio of Pietrelcina-priest

8:00 Mark Joseph Fizulich R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 In Thanksgiving to St. Pio R/b the Zaccaro Family

Tuesday, September 24 - St. Pacific of San Severino of Italy-priest

8:00 John Holler Jr. R/b Sr. Elizabeth
12:00 James M. Walsh R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

Wednesday, September 25 - St. Finbar—bishop

8:00 Richard Mangieri R/b Marie Mangieri
12:00 Jack Romano R/b the Adamcik Family

Thursday, September 26 - Ss. Cosmas and Damian-martyrs

8:00 Frances Duggan R/b Pat Duggan
12:00 George Rush R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

Friday, September 27 - St. Vincent de Paul, priest-France

8:00 Mary Corcoran R/b the Cannon Family
12:00 Joseph Rinaldi R/b Rae Rinaldi

Saturday, September 28 - Ss. Lawrence Ruiz & companions

8:00 Paul D'Angelo R/b Mark and Valerie Freemyer
12:00 Joseph Rinaldi R/b Rae Rinaldi

4:00 Rosanna and Enzo Carrino R/b Armando and Christine Carrino
5:00 Intentions of Fr. Wojciech R/b OLV Knights of Columbus

Sunday, September 29 - Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

7:30 Maria Belgiovine R/b Attilio and Rose Viscovich
8:15 Elizabeth D'Abbraccio R/b Joann and Bill Nahmias

9:30 Marie Falotico R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico
10:45 Emma Bernardez R/b the Onello Family

12:00 Deceased of Caufield Family R/b John and Mary Terwedow
1:00 People of the Parish

6:00 Richard and Louise Dann R/b Diana DiGiacomo

7:00 Rose and Domenic Cafarella R/b Vivian Cafarella

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of

William Mazza, r/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose

of the soul of **Richard Mangieri**, r/b Marie Mangieri.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the

soul of **Mark Joseph Fizulich**, r/b loving godparents.

Flower & Sanctuary Offerings

If you would like to donate **flowers** for the Altar, BVM and St. Joseph, call the rectory. Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

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 Noon and 3:00-3:40PM; every weekday morning at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

SICK OR "HOMEBOUND"

If you are sick or "homebound" (or know someone who is), and would like to have Communion, please contact the Rectory at 201-768-1706.

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Captain Shawn Linn
Lieutenant Gigi McElroy
Colonel John McLaughlin
Captain John G. Miele

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Shanna Bennett
Corporal Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Thomas lafrate
Corporal Joseph Levine

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Ensign Jon Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
OS3 Daniel T. LoVecchio

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Please *Pray* in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the *sick of the 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 Will*: baby Cordelia, Richard Bolton, Dominic Carini, Carolanne Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Kevin Columbo, Anthony Cortez, Marie D'Ascenzo, Lorraine Degerdon, Isabelle DeLeonibus, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Carl Falasca, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Mary Foley, Tom Giuliano, Robert Hamilla, Peter Kellar, Milan Krupa, Mary Lowe, Robert Milli, John Pal, Joyanna Peros, John Peterson Jr, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, Veronica Romanchuk, Phylis Rooney, Mike Tobia, Jeremy Unanue, Brian, Carla, Chris, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Fiona, Jennifer, Joann, Lisa, Liz, Lucas, Lynn, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Sean, Sharon.

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A little humor ... Clever Kids

A police officer found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists. One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so he investigated and found the problem. A 10 years old boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand-painted sign which said "Radar Trap Ahead." A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice: another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "TIPS" and a bucket at his feet full of change.

...Elephant

The class teacher asks students to name an animal that begins with "E". One boy says, "Elephant." Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a "T". The same boy says, "Two elephants." The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behavior. After that she asks for an animal beginning with "M". The boy shouts from the other side of the wall: "Maybe an elephant!"

ASCENDING TO HEAVEN

Thomas Henderson by way of Cup O'Cheer

The story is told of a preacher in a small European village. He was greatly loved by the people, and they believed he had an especially close relationship with God. He disappeared every Friday and could not be found for several hours. The villagers boasted that during those hours he ascended to heaven and talked with God.

There was a newcomer to the village. He was a skeptic who made fun of the faith of all the other people. He got increasingly irritated by all the claims about the minister, and so he determined to find out where he really spent Fridays. So he hid near the preacher's house. He watched as the preacher rose early, spent time in prayer, and left his house in the clothes of a peasant.

The young skeptic followed the old man from a safe distance. He watched him cut down a tree and chop up a large stack of firewood. He continued to watch as he made his way to a shack in the poorest part of the village and stacked the wood. It was the home of an old woman and her sick husband. After leaving the couple enough wood to last them a week, the preacher quietly returned to his own home.

The villagers were startled the next Sunday when the young newcomer was in church. They were even more surprised when he became a Christian shortly thereafter. He thought highly of the church's godly minister and, upon his death, he became his successor. For the rest of his own life, whenever he heard one of the villagers speak of his predecessor and say, "On Fridays he would ascend to heaven," he would add softly, "If not higher."

Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (*John 13:35*).



Saint Padre Pio's Quotes - September 23

"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart. In fact on certain occasions you should only speak to Him with your heart."

"Prayer is the oxygen of the soul."

"The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain."

"Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the Devil. Remember this forever; it is a healthy sign if the devil shouts and roars around your conscience since this shows that he is not inside your will."

"The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrifice, and with extreme effort."

"Happiness is only found in heaven."

"Walk in the way of the Lord with simplicity and do not torment your spirit. You must hate your defects but with a quiet hate, not troublesome and restless."

"Have patience and persevere in the holy exercise of meditation; be content to begin with small steps till you have legs to run, better still wings to fly."

"Do not fear. Jesus is more powerful than all hell."

"The field of battle between God and Satan is the human soul. It is in the soul that the battle rages every moment of life."

"My real program of governance is not to do my own will, not to pursue my own ideas, but to listen, together with the whole church, to the word and the will of the Lord," —**Benedict XVI in his inauguration homily.**

Kidz Korner Answers

- 1. A rainbow. 2. He changed water into wine.
- 3. Light. 4. Red Sea. 5. Jericho.

Whoever flees prayer flees all that is good.
-St John of the Cross

It All Depends Whose Hands It's In

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.
 A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.
 A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth \$19 million.
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.
 A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands is a Wimbledon Championship.
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.
 A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.
 A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.
 Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.
 It depends on whose hands they're in...

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.
 Nails in Christ Jesus' hands will produce salvation for the entire world.
 It depends on whose hands they're in...

As you see now it depends whose hands it's in.
 So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's Hands.
 Because, it depends on whose hands they're in.
 —Paul Cindiraj (a missionary in India)

To reach satisfaction in all desire its possession in nothing,
 To come to the knowledge of all desire the knowledge of nothing,
 To come to possess all desire the possession of nothing,
 To arrive at being all desire to be nothing.

—John of the Cross

A dish of ice cream

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" "50 cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it. "How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired. Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient. "35 cents," she said brusquely. The little boy again counted the coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed. When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were 15 cents – her tip.
Author Unknown

KIDZ KORNER

1. What did God place in Heaven as a symbol of His pledge to Noah?
2. What was Jesus' first miracle?
3. In creation, which appeared first: plants, animals or light?
4. Moses parted what sea so that the Israelites could escape Egypt?
5. What city's walls fell down when trumpets bared and the Jews shouted? **Answers on page four.**

Psalm 23

There was once a Shakespearean actor who was known everywhere for his one-man show of readings and recitations from the classics. He would always end his performance with a dramatic reading of Psalm 23. Each night, without exception, as the actor began his recitation-- "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want"--the crowd would listen attentively. And then, at the conclusion of the psalm, they would rise in thunderous applause in appreciation of the actor's incredible ability to bring the verse to life.

But one night, just before the actor was to offer his customary recital of Psalm 23, a young man from the audience spoke up.

"Sir, do you mind, if tonight, I recite Psalm 23?"

The actor was quite taken aback by this unusual request, but he allowed the young man to come forward and to stand front and center on the stage to recite the psalm, knowing that the ability of this unskilled youth would be no match for his own talent.

With a soft voice, the young man began to recite the words of the psalm. When he was finished, there was no applause. There was no standing ovation as on other nights. All that could be heard was the sound of weeping. The audience had been so moved by the young man's recitation that every eye was full of tears.

Amazed by what he had heard, the actor said to the youth, "I don't understand. I have been performing Psalm 23 for years. I have a lifetime of experience and training, but I have never been able to move an audience as you have tonight. Tell me, what is your secret?"

The young man humbly replied,

"Well, sir, you know the psalm... but I know the Shepherd."

St. Alphonsus Liguori - God became a servant

"To give his life as a ransom for many"

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787), Bishop and Doctor of the Church Works, vol.14

A God who serves, who sweeps the house and gives himself to the most onerous work – a single one of these reflections should be enough to fill us with love! When our Savior began preaching his Gospel he made himself «the servant of all», himself asserting that «he had not come to be served, but to serve». It was as though he had said he wanted to be servant to everyone. And Saint Bernard says that, at the end of his life, he was not satisfied «with having taken the condition of a servant that he might place himself at our service but he wanted to take on the appearance of an unworthy slave and be struck and undergo the punishment due to us by reason of our sins.»

See how our Lord, as an obedient servant to all, undergoes the sentence of Pilate, unjust as it is, and yields to his executioners... In this way has this God so loved us that, out of love for us, he wanted to obey like a slave even to death and die a death that was both painful and humiliating: the torture of the cross (Phil 2,8).

Yet in all this he obeyed, not as God but as man, as the slave whose condition he had assumed. There are holy men who have surrendered themselves as slaves in order to redeem a poor man and have won the world's admiration by this heroic act of charity. But what sort of charity is this compared with that of the Redeemer? Being God; desiring to redeem us from the slavery due to us to the devil and death, he made himself as slave, allowing himself to be bound and nailed to the cross. «That the servant might become lord,» Saint Augustine says, «God willed to make himself a servant.»

Let us be servants in order to be leaders.

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky

COVER SHEET

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Phone Fr. Wojciech or Maria at 201-768-1706 or email olvrectory.hp@gmail.com with questions.