

Our Lady of Victories Church

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

www.olvhp.org

SUNDAY, November 15, 2020 A.D.

WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

Parish Office 201-768-1706

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Pastor

Rev. Edmond P. Ilg
Parochial Vicar

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Maria Hellrigel - *Parish Secretary*
201-768-1706

Religious Education (CCD)
Susan Evanella Denise Coulter (LSEC)
201-768-1400

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

Selena Piazza Elizabeth Gulfo
Lesa Rossmann Martin Coyne II
Ministers of Music Parish Trustees

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

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 & after 12:00Noon Mass

**Victory in war does not depend
upon the size of the army,
but on strength
that comes from Heaven.**

1 Maccabees 3:19



ATTENTION !

no more sign-ups for

Saturday evening / Sunday Mass.

Seating for Mass will be on a "first-come, first-served" basis,
with the assistance of the ushers.

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday evening 4:00PM and 5:00PM

Sunday 7:00AM, 8:00AM *Latin*, 9:30AM - also live-streamed,
10:45AM, 10:45AM Family Mass in OLV GYM

12:00Noon, 1:00PM *Spanish*, 6:00PM. No 7PM Sunday Mass

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Mon.-Sat.: 7:30-7:50am. Saturday: 11:00-11:50am; 3:00-3:45pm

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.



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

Last Sunday's **Memorial Mass** was comforting for me as well as to so many who lost their loved ones this past year. Thank you for your participation in person or via live stream. Thank you for all your kind words. I can only imagine how hard it is to grieve. It takes time to entrust our loved ones to the Lord and to trust Him in our loss. May Mary who lost her husband and Son help you all, dear families, to grieve as she did.

A few practical requests: A kind reminder, as we go into the winter months to please keep others in mind: wear your mask (on face and nose), keep 6 feet distant and do not congregate in the atrium nor downstairs. There are people praying inside the Church; refrain from loud chatter. If you are sick, stay home and watch our live stream Mass, every Sunday at 9:30AM. Even outside, please do not block the doors for the incoming parishioners. I noticed also that there are people who "donate" books that should go to the garbage. Last week, I noticed a book that would damage anybody who would read it. Please let me know when you want to donate. Garbage should end in garbage.

GIVING TREE 2020

Due to the pandemic, this year the Giving Tree will take a different shape. The Program Coordinator, (where the gifts are donated), has asked us for **Gift cards only - NO PRESENTS**. We ask you to provide: Bank cards, Visa or Master cards. *They are good because they can be used anywhere.* Please take a tag from a tree, be sure to tape the tag to the gift card and indicate the amount. There will be a drop box in Church or you may use the Rectory mail slot. **Tags will be available November 21st and MUST be returned by December 6th.** There will still be tags for Shop-Rite cards which we add to each family's package.

In addition, this year we are helping two other charities, HEARTS OF JOY and NEW HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER, INC. These tags will instead have a gift request. They will also be on the trees and have the same time frame.

THANKSGIVING FOOD & TURKEY DRIVE

OLV will be having a month-long canned food/non-perishable food drive to help area food banks and help the less fortunate. **We will also be hosting a one day frozen Turkey Drive on Sunday, November 22nd. Frozen turkeys must be delivered here to OLV Church by 12:30PM on Sunday, November 22nd.**

Presentation of Mary in the Temple

a mystery of: -worship and self offering -the presence of God.
Inspired by the Presentation of Mary Marie Rivier's spirituality was born at the feet of the statue of the Pieta (Our Lady of Mercy) in her village church. The crippled child asked her mother to be left there to pray while her mother ran errands and worked. While waiting she begged our Lady to cure her and she promised to make Jesus Christ known and loved. This experience fashioned in her a spirit of prayer and a heart of compassion and this she passed on to her daughters, The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. Inspired by the Presentation of Mary offering herself to God in the temple and the mysteries of the life, death / resurrection of Jesus; we hope to be an open gospel where every person we meet can read the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

ADORATIONS schedule. No appointment needed

Tuesdays and Thursdays adoration from 8:30AM till 12Noon.
First Thursdays of the month, Holy Hour at 7PM,
First Fridays regular adoration from 12:30PM till 7PM
First Saturday from 12:30PM till 1PM.

COME let us ADORE the EUCHARISTIC LORD.

**DO NOT stretch
yourself too much-**

ON Sunday, Rest!

A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked. He thought he would be only praying and working all the time. Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, and enjoy with the others, the old man said to him, "Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it." So he did. The old man then said, "Shoot another," and he did so. Then the old man said, "Shoot yet again," and the hunter replied, "If I bend my bow so much, I will break it." Then the old man said to him, "It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren or ourselves beyond measure, they/we will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary for the bow to rest to shoot even better next time". When he heard these words, the hunter was pierced by compunction and, greatly edified by the old man, he went away.

O most gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of Thy departed servants. Be not severe in Thy judgments, but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And do Thou, O Merciful Saviour, send Thy holy angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant unto the souls of Thy departed servants full remission of all their sins, that through the help of our pious supplications they may obtain that pardon they have always desired, Thou who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

- V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
- R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.
- V. May they rest in peace. Amen.
- R. And may the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

God is more pleased by one work, however small, done secretly, without desire that it be known, than a thousand done with desire that men know of them. The person who works for God with purest love not only cares nothing about whether men see him, but does not even seek that God Himself know of them. Such a person would not cease to render God the same services, with the same joy and purity of love, even if God were never to know of them. - **St John of the Cross**

St. Augustine reminds us: "If we had no care for the dead, we would not be in the habit of praying for them."

**To bury the dead is a corporal work of mercy,
to pray for the dead is the spiritual work of mercy.**

Help THE SOULS in PURGATORY??

It is very possible that some of our own nearest and dearest ones are still suffering the excruciating pains of Purgatory and are calling to us for help and relief. There is no hunger, no thirst, no poverty, no need, no pain, no suffering to compare with what the souls in Purgatory endure. How YOU can help these souls: **1. Have Masses offered for them. 2. Make the Stations of the Cross. 3. Recite the Rosary. 4. Offer up all your pain and sufferings for the relief of Souls.**

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine

REQUIREMENTS for GODPARENTS

Godparents play a very important role in your child's spiritual life as role models of the faith. They should support not only the child, but the parents as well. Additionally, in their role as godparent, they represent the larger Church community and this is a tremendous responsibility. The Church has provided guidelines to help parents choose the best possible godparents for their children. In recognizing the importance of the godparent and their duties:

- Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old.**
- Godparent/Sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.** Must be a practicing Catholic (*attend Sunday Mass weekly*). Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. If single, not living with significant other, nor married civilly only.
- Godparent/Sponsor cannot be the candidate's parent.** Each child only requires one Godparent. If you wish to have 2 Godparents, there must be one female and one male. (Canon Law 872-874)

CCD Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 10AM-2PM
201-768-1400 olvhpcdd@gmail.com

CONVALIDATION

Best way to start your married life is with God. In Sacramental Marriage God's own divine life can be experienced and lived. Were you married only civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. Wojciech for details.

NEED BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For more information, phone the rectory. *Adult Catholics* who have not yet celebrated *Confirmation* should also contact the rectory for preparation class information.

Jesus asked one thing from us!!!

On His last night of earth (Holy Thursday) Jesus asked His disciples one thing – to stay awake with Him for one hour. OLV has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday and Thursday - 8:30AM to 11:50AM.

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 11AM to Noon and 3-3:40PM; every weekday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Clothing Bins: Please donate clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books. Please place your donations INSIDE the bins (sometimes you have to push it in) . Do not leave items outside.

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Did you know? The first book ever printed

Johannes Gutenberg is credited with the invention of the movable type printing press some time around the year 1440. A Catholic man, it was fitting the first book he printed using his invention was the Bible, his seminal work entitled the Gutenberg Bible.

Mass Intentions

- Monday, November 16–St. Margaret of Hungary, Queen of Scotland; St. Gertrude-Patroness of the West Indies**
8:00 Joseph Quinn R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 John Downey R/b Michael and Tracy Grassi
- Tuesday, November 17–St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary-Nun**
8:00 Michael A. Casenta R/b Colleen Connors-Casenta
12:00 Burke, Walsh and Melbourne Families R/b Bill and Peg Walsh
- Wednesday, November 18–Dedication of the Churches of Ss. Peter and Paul; St. Rose Duchesne-Virgin**
8:00 In Thanksgiving R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 John Tarabocchia R/b Nick and Maria Busanic
- Thursday, November 19 – St. Mathilda of Germany - Nun**
8:00 Betsy Foer R/b OLV parish
12:00 Joseph Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran
- Friday, November 20 – St. Bernward, Bishop of Hildesheim**
8:00 Robert Connolly R/b Margaret Brandes
12:00 Bob Hamilla R/b Ann Hamilla
- Saturday, Nov. 21–Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
8:00 Intentions of Matthew Brady R/b Dan and Karen Brady
12:00 Intentions of Ginny and Brian Amaral R/b Peggy O'Brien
4:00 Mario Gobbetti R/b Lorraine Gobbetti
5:00 Raphael F. Longobardi
- Sunday, November 22–Our Lord Jesus Christ-King of the Universe**
7:00 Robert Hamilla R/b the Conner Family
8:00 Special Intention
9:30 David Scaffa R/b Loving Family
10:45 Madeline Dunn R/b the Dunn Family
10:45 Gym Souls in Purgatory
12:00 Irene Ciccarino
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Rev. Jerry Ikalowych R/b Joyce Saydah

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

- The Sanctuary Lamp** will burn this week for the **repose of the soul of Bob Hamilla, r/b Ann Hamilla.**
- The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** will burn this week in honor of **Frances Semler on her 102nd birthday.**
- The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** will burn this week for the **repose of the soul of Bob Hamilla, r/b Ann Hamilla**
- The Hosts and Wine** which will become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ at Mass this week have been donated **in loving memory of Bob Hamilla, r/b Ann Hamilla**

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.

My Parish—COVID-19—My Responsibility

We thank all those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some have been laid off from their work or experiencing decreased income and are unable to continue their donations at this time. *Donations/offering envelopes may be mailed to:*

OLV Rectory, 81 Lynn Street, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.

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.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Corporal Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Thomas Iafraite
Corporal Joseph Levine
2nd Lieutenant J.P. Maher

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Ensign Jon Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger

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, baby Emmet Fischer, baby James Amicucci, baby Jonathan, Robert Bardsley, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Dominic Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Christopher Cleary, Kevin Columbo, Paula Brennan Cornine, Marie D'Ascenzo, Cathy Daleo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine De-gerdon, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Mike Donohue, Carl Falasca, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Foley, Amy Hartwell, Peter Kellar, Milan Krupa, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan and Buddy Phalon, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, Debra Rendon, Bruce Michael Ricciardi, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Janet Sylvia, Mike Tobia, Aileen Vassar, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Sean, Sharon, Tina W., Tom.

Spiritual Communion *composed by Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val*

As I cannot this day enjoy the happiness of assisting at the holy Mysteries, O my God! I transport myself in spirit at the foot of Thine altar; I unite with the Church, which by the hands of the priest, offers Thee Thine adorable Son in the Holy Sacrifice; I offer myself with Him, by Him, and in His Name. I adore, I praise, and thank Thee, imploring Thy mercy, invoking Thine assistance, and presenting Thee the homage I owe Thee as my Creator, the love due to Thee as my Savior.

Apply to my soul, I beseech Thee, O merciful Jesus, Thine infinite merits; apply them also to those for whom I particularly wish to pray. I desire to communicate spiritually, that Thy Blood may purify, Thy Flesh strengthen, and Thy Spirit sanctify me. May I never forget that Thou, my divine Redeemer, hast died for me; may I die to all that is not Thee, that hereafter I may live eternally with Thee. Amen.

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.

What the Mass can do

St. Paul, the Hermit, stood once at the church door as the people entered. He saw the soul of one man, a great sinner, in such a state of horrible corruption as appalled him. Moreover, he saw a devil standing by his side who seemed to have complete control of him. On leaving the church, he saw the same man so completely changed that he called him aside and asked him confidentially if he was sorry for his sins. The poor man at once confessed that he had committed many and very grave sins, but during the Mass he had read in his prayer book, "if your sins are as red as scarlet, I will make them as white as snow." "I began at once to ask God to pardon and forgive me, and I am very sorry for my sins and I wish to go to Confession at once." St. Paul saw that by his act of sincere sorrow the man was, by the infinite merits of the Mass, pardoned of all his sins.

St. Thomas, the Prince of Theologians, writes wonderfully of the Mass. "The Mass" he says, "obtains for sinners in mortal sin the grace of repentance. For the just, it obtains the remission of venial sins and the pardon of the pain due to sin. It obtains an increase of habitual [Sanctifying] grace, as well as all the graces necessary for their special needs."

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

Our Lord dictated the following prayer to St. Gertrude the Great to release 1,000 Souls from Purgatory each time it is said.

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

St. Gertrude's life was the mystic life of the Cloister – a Benedictine nun. She meditated on the Passion of Christ, which many times brought a flood of tears to her eyes. She did many penances and Our Lord appeared to her many times. She had a tender love for the Blessed Virgin and was very devoted to the suffering souls in Purgatory. She died in 1334. Her feast day is November 16th.

Purgatory

The dogma of Purgatory is an all-but-forgotten teaching of the Church, yet it is extremely valuable in supporting the call to perfection. The fundamental purpose of Purgatory is not forgiveness of sins, but making up for sins, reparation. The damage done by sin, especially to our own souls, is "repaired" in Purgatory.

When a boy accidentally throws a baseball through a neighbor's window, it is one thing to be forgiven by the owner, another thing to repair the window. When a man does something terrible to his wife, it is one thing to receive her forgiveness, quite another to make it up to her. True, Jesus has paid most of the price for sin, but we have a relatively small price to pay as well. St. Paul says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I make up in my own flesh what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his body, which is the Church" (Col 1:24). So, there is a place or state we enter to repair the damage our sins have caused.

Rev. Thomas G. Morrow

Kidz Korner Answers

1. Mother Cabrini.
2. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
3. Katherine Drexel.
4. John Neumann.
5. St. Genesis

The Bee is a Symbol of Our Lady

The bee is a symbol of Our Lady. Because of its good working habits, the small honeybee is a well-known symbol for work, good order, and diligence. Less commonly known is that the bee is a representation of virginity. The worker bees have no part in the reproduction of its species, except for that of feeding the baby bees. The responsibilities of "bee parenting" are left to the queen bee and the drones. Since virginity is a virtue we find exemplified to its highest capacity in Our Lady, the bee quite naturally becomes one of Her symbols. Dom Gueranger, O.S.B., in his reading for the feast of Candlemas in The Liturgical Year, quotes St. Anselm, the Archbishop of Canturbury, who "bids us consider three things in the blest Candle: the wax, the wick, and the flame. The wax, which is the production of the virginal bee, is the flesh of Our Lord [supplied by the Virgin Mary]; the wick, which is within, is His Soul; the flame, which burns on the top, is His Divinity."

The honey, which the bee works to make, is symbolic of sweetness and religious eloquence. For this reason, the beehive is emblematic of St. Ambrose (†397) and St. Bernard of Clairvaux (†1153), two Doctors of the Church known for their eloquence "as sweet as honey."

Taken from <https://catholicism.org/the-bee-is-a-symbol-of-our-lady.html>

SPIRITUAL GYM

Train yourself in godliness [to be spiritually fit]. For while bodily training [to be physically fit] is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise [prepares us] for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (St. Timothy was the first Christian bishop of Ephesus)

TOO much repetition

A woman came to see me one evening after instructions. She said: "I would never become Catholic. You say the same words in the Rosary, over and over again, and anyone who repeats the same words is never sincere. I would never believe such a person and neither would God." I asked her who the man was who was with her. She said it was her fiance. I asked, "Does he love you?" "He told me." "What did he say?" He said, "I love you." "But never before?" "He tells me every night." I said, "Do not believe him." He is repeating; he is not sincere." The beautiful truth, there is no repetition in "I love you." Because there is a new moment of time, another point in space, the words do not mean the same as before. Love is never monotonous in the uniformity of its expression. The mind is infinitely variable in its language, but the heart is not. The heart of man in the face of the woman he loves is too poor to translate the infinity of his affection into different words. So the heart takes but one expression, "I love you" and in saying it over and over again, it never repeats. It is the only real news in the universe. That is what we do when we say the Rosary. We are saying to the Holy Trinity, to the Incarnate Savior to the Blessed Mother, "I love you," "I love you," "I love you."

-By Abp. Fulton J. Sheen

A Little Humor ... Rest In Peace

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Father," Alex replied, still focused on the plaque. "Father, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "Which one, the 9:30 or 12:00?"

KIDZ KORNER

1. Who was the first American citizen to be made a Saint?
2. Who was America's first native-born Saint?
3. Who is America's newest declared Saint?
4. What Philadelphia Bishop is America's only male Saint?
5. Who is the patron saint of Secretaries?

Answers on page 4

PELICAN & The Louisiana flag

The Louisiana flag has a pelican as its symbol. Three small drops of blood make it very clear that the pelican is not simply feeding her chicks; rather, she's nourishing them with her own lifeblood. The "Pelican in Her Piety" has long been used in Catholic art to represent Our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. The earliest use of this symbol appears to be in the patristic volume, *Physiologus*, written in the second century of the Christian Era. The pelican is only one of the animals used in this book to represent important persons and mysteries of the Faith. Among the others are the phoenix, representing the resurrected Christ; and the unicorn, which can be captured only in the lap of a virgin, symbolizing the Incarnation of Our Lord in the virginal womb of Mary. In the *Physiologus*, the pelican is portrayed as giving life to her dead children by heroically tearing open her own chest to pour her blood on them. The symbol is truly a beautiful allegory of Holy Communion, by which Our Lord pours on us His life-giving Blood so that we might live by His grace, for without it we are surely dead: *Unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you* (John 6:54). After its early appearance in the patristic period, the symbol became very popular in the Church, especially in the Middle Ages. In his stirring hymn to the Blessed Sacrament, *Lauda Sion*, Saint Thomas Aquinas calls Our Lord the *Pie Pelicane*, or "Holy Pelican." Dante Alighieri, the celebrated Florentine poet, calls Him *Nostro Pelicano* ("Our Pelican") in his *Divine Comedy*. Catholic liturgical art is full of representations of this figure. Altar frontals, monstrances, chalices, paintings, engravings, stained-glass windows, and vestments were commonly adorned with this symbol of Our Lord.

Pre-Reformation England boasted a monastery in the city of Durham that had a tabernacle in the form of a silver pelican suspended from the ceiling over the high altar. Presumably, it was melted and sold when the "reformers" savaged the monastery.

Beatification Cause Opened

The beatification cause of a Polish religious sister who was tortured by Joseph Stalin's secret police and reputedly bore the stigmata opened Monday. Sr. Wanda Boniszewska, who died in 2003 at the age of 96, was a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Angels, a habitless Polish religious community founded in 1889.

Her "Spiritual Journal," published in 2016, recorded her mystical experiences between 1921 and 1980. Commentators have drawn parallels between the work and the "Diary" of Polish St. Faustina Kowalska. Boniszewska's spirituality centered on offering her sufferings for the expiation of sins, especially those of priests (how timely, considering the opening of her cause coincided with a series of high-profile clerical abuse cases in the Polish Church; imagine she offered her sufferings for the expiation of the sins of the priests.)

Wanda Boniszewska was born in 1907 in Kamionka. At the age of 16, she sought to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of Angels in Vilnius, the present-day capital of Lithuania. After her first profession, Boniszewska said that Jesus asked her to offer her sufferings for the expiation of the sins of "souls consecrated to Me." She made her full profession in 1933, after which she reputedly received the stigmata -- wounds corresponding to those of Jesus at the Crucifixion.

On April 11, 1950, the sister was arrested and tortured by the NKVD, the Soviet secret police and a forerunner of the KGB. A year later, she was exiled to Siberia. She was released by the Soviet authorities in 1956 and returned to Poland.

Boniszewska died on March 2, 2003, in Konstancin-Jeziorna, a town south of Warsaw, having spent 76 years as a religious sister.

Speaking at the opening of her cause, postulator Fr. Michał Siennicki said: "The process that we are beginning today aims to show that heroism is possible even in the most difficult circumstances of life. Wanda Boniszewska, despite the unjust sentencing to years of Soviet imprisonment, remained heroically before Christ, witnessing to Him, and bearing the wounds of Christ on her body, and offering her sufferings for priests." *CNA Staff, Nov 9, 2020*