

July 08, 2018

### When are you coming back?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Father, when are you coming back?" This is a question that many of you have asked me these last few weeks. It is a question that has been very much on my mind these last two months.

I have read with great interest every one of the hundreds of "get-well-soon" notes you have sent me. They all give me HOPE! I was touched to have so many people pray for my full recovery! I believe in the power of prayer! I have decorated my room with all your cards/notes. They have been a constant, joyful reminder that we belong to the same family, a family of families, a wonderful parish where the **love of Christ unites us!**

One of my favorite get-well notes was written by one of our young children: " Father, I have learned that you had heart surgery. I pray that you will be able to come back to us in TWO DAYS!" Yes, I wish that I could have come back in two days. It was indeed the original plan when I went to have a simpler procedure: an angioplasty, with an understanding that I would return in less than 48 hours! But **God had a different plan!**

I did go through the angioplasty on my first day at the hospital. However, at the end of this procedure which took about three hours, the surgeon told me that it was not possible to clear my arteries by using stents, and that I needed to go through a more complex procedure, an open heart surgery: a triple by-pass to open up three arteries! I was not ready for such news! But I did not have a choice...Instead of returning home in 24 hours, I stayed 10 days in the hospital, including a full nine hours under complete anesthesia: 5 hours of surgery and another four hours to wake up!

In my 72 years on earth I have never had a medical procedure - This was a first! As I entered the operating room, I had a little conversation with **God!** I simply told **Him:** "*God, you have blessed me with 72 wonderful years. If you want to take me home with You, I am ready to go. I received you last night in the Eucharist ( I concelebrated Mass with two unexpected visiting priests in my hospital room the evening before, and a few hours earlier, I had gone to Fr. Santiago for confession, and he also anointed me - the sacrament of healing the sick). I am ready to go and I hope that you will take me in Purgatory as a preparation to enter into Heaven forever and ever. However, if you want me to continue to serve Your people as a priest, I am also ready to go back to my parish and serve beyond the nine years of priesthood you have already given me.*" I did not hear any response from God. But I knew that I was totally in **His** hands!

In many ways, I was at peace entering the operating room, though, I had some concerns. My primary doctor was worried that I might lose too much blood as I have mild hemophilia. But this was nothing compared with the sufferings of so many people in today's world. I remember nothing more of the operating room.

What I recall is my surprise when I woke up nine hours later. I simply said: "O God! I am still **alive!**"

I must confess that the 10 days in the hospital and the many weeks of recovery have not been easy. One of my greatest desires has been to return to the parish and to be with you all as early as possible. But God had a different plan. I had a series of setbacks that made the recovery longer and more difficult. I was not always at peace. I wanted to surrender totally to God, but many times I was anxious, especially when facing setbacks. Cardinal Wuerl and Bishop-Elect Fisher were very supportive. They wanted me to take all the time necessary for a full recovery so that I could return to the parish with full strength. They arranged for me to stay in a residence with other priests, which provided me a quiet and prayerful environment. We had daily Mass every day. In its small chapel I spent one or two hours every day in prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I took walks outdoors everyday so as to begin my physical rehabilitation. I had all three meals daily with other priests who inspired me by sharing many of their priestly experiences. I can thank the Lord for having given me such an opportunity for spiritual reflection.

Note that in the second reading this weekend (2 Cor 12:7-10), St. Paul tells the Corinthians that he had to suffer much: "*A thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness", in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, no constraints, for the sake of Christ, for when I am weak, then I am strong.*" None of us can compare with the great Evangelizer St Paul. However, each one of us can associate with his sufferings. All of us have been given "a thorn in the flesh." This thorn is one of the crosses we carry daily. All of us have weaknesses. Let us pray that, like St. Paul, we will all be able to open our hearts to the Lord's **grace**, and with the full support of the **Holy Spirit**, we can say that when we are weak, we are strong.

In so many ways, I have been weak for the last two months, but at the same time I have been blessed. I will never forget all your wonderful notes of encouragement and all your prayers for my recovery. The prayers have been working. I am regaining my physical and spiritual strength, and I am so happy that I will be back with you very soon. By the time you read this weekly bulletin, I will have begun to make arrangements to return to Waldorf. My return is no longer a matter of months, but rather a matter of days. Stay tuned for more details. This is for me a great joy to return to Waldorf and I am grateful to the Lord!

May the Holy Spirit living in Mary help transform our weaknesses into strengths and may He guide our steps into the Way of Peace!

**One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain**



# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Check the website for summer events!

FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team  
Edge: Middle school youth ministry  
Life Teen: High school youth ministry

### Fiat Camp - For High School Girls

Fiat is Latin for "Let it be done." Join other young women from the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore this summer (July 27-29 at Mount St. Mary's University) to spend time discovering the exciting things that God has for your life! What to expect: Talks by religious sisters and other speakers,

Mass and prayer, games and sports, craft time and social time (with great food!), time for confession and spiritual advice. The cost is \$150 (Sibling discounts & scholarships available). For more information please visit [www.olhoc.org/lifeteen](http://www.olhoc.org/lifeteen)



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### VBS "Surfin' with the Holy Spirit!"

July 23-27 9:00am to Noon

Register on-line at [www.olhoc.org/vbs](http://www.olhoc.org/vbs)

Participants ages 4-11, youth volunteers ages 12-17;  
Adult volunteers 18+ years

Let's go SURFIN'! The kids will never forget their friend and helper, the HOLY SPIRIT after a week Surfin' with the Spirit! Non-stop action and non-stop learning at the same time!

Don't delay! Supplies need to be ordered.

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Summer Movie Night - St. Joseph Church, Pomfret

Friday, July 27th. Food starts at 6:30pm & film begins at 7:30pm.

Celebrating the beauty of the Church's teaching on married love, join us for a viewing of "Sexual Revolution: 50 Years Since Humanae Vitae," a brand-new film that examines the effects of the free-love experiment of the Hippie Generation and the prophetic encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Food, film and childcare all FREE (donations gratefully accepted).

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/StJoesMovie>.

Appropriate and recommended for all couples, young adults AND middle-and high-school students and their parents. See [www.sexualrevolutionmovie.com](http://www.sexualrevolutionmovie.com)

## OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

2018 Summer Program for ages 3-5 (**must be potty-trained**) The cost is \$75 per week. Discount for multiple siblings or multiple weeks.

- July 9-13, 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Numbers & Puzzles
- July 30-August 3, 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Science/Nature

Registration is first come/first served, and will continue until one week before each session starts or until classes are full.

For more information OR for Fall Preschool registration, send an email to [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

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### Community Outreach

The next Shepherd's Table Dinner will be held on Thursday, July 19, at Good Shepherd Church.



Sharing Sunday – Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

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### Upcoming Child Protection Workshop in Southern MD:

Monday, August 20 - 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Archbishop Neale School  
104 Port Tobacco Road  
La Plata, MD 20646

Register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)



## Prayer Requests \*

**We are asked to pray for:** Alex León, Connie Miller, Wanda Roberts, Fr. Kleinstuber, Wilbur Etbauer, Antonio Marin, Georgiana Norgren, Scott Anderson, Harold Frye, Patricia Fisher, Marjorie O'Donnel, Sarah Parker, Leslie Heath, Miriam Chagolla, Lauren Lohman, Fr. Alain, Grace Emmanuella, Dennis Forgash, Robert Brooks, Angel Morgan, William Graham, Fred Kowaleski, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

*Deep condolences are extended to the family and friends of J. Eliseo Lemus.*

*\*Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*



## Mass Intentions this Week

**Saturday, July 07, 9:00 AM: Patricia Fogol**

**Saturday, July 07, 5:00 PM: Glenn Tyndell (+)**

**Sunday, July 08, 8:30 AM: Patricia Griesert (+)**

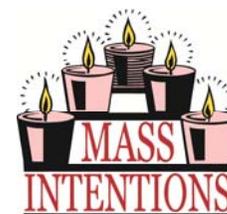
**Sunday, July 08, 10:00 AM: José & Maria Gonzales (+)**

**Sunday, July 08, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners**

**Sunday, July 08, 1:00 PM: Tonye T. Joseph (+)**

**Monday, July 09, 9:00 AM: J. Eliseo Lemus (+)**

**Tuesday, July 10, 9:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd (+)**



## Marriage Retreat~ Solving the Mystery of Prayer in Your Marriage

**July 13-14, 2018**

This retreat is for married couples who would like to feel more comfortable praying together. Learn practical tips about your own personal prayer style. Increase feelings of trust and intimacy in your marriage as you develop the spiritual side of your relationship as you employ concrete tools and advice from our team of Catholic priests and married couples. You will experience a mixture of talks, questionnaires, time for personal reflection (individually and with your spouse); Eucharistic Adoration, celebration of the Mass, and time for Confession are all included. This is a two-day retreat, but you do not stay overnight. There will also be time to socialize with the other participants, but this program is about the couple, and no one will be put on the spot to share with the group. Registration fee includes the workshop fee, all materials, plus meals throughout weekend. Cost to attend: \$265 per couple. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

Visit our website: [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org) or call 301-365-0612.



## Your Church; the Lord's House

Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and refrain from taking any food or beverage in the Church. If children need food or beverages, please use the cry room or Social Hall.



We have incurred some recent pew damage. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as a foot rest.

## Mass Readings for July 15, 2018

*15th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

**\*First Reading**

*Amos 7:12-15*

**\*Second Reading**

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

**\*Gospel**

*Mark 6:7-13*



[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

# THE WILD GOOSE

## DISCOVERING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Beginning weekend of July 8th for seven weeks this summer - Join Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, in this incredible 7-meeting, 14-segment video series which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. Discover the Holy Spirit who has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ and who leads us to our heavenly Father. This adventure consists of Fr. Dave speaking on an attribute of the Holy Spirit, a practical application on how to respond to the Holy Spirit and testimonies of people from across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit of God.

**Babysitting will be provided on Monday evenings.**

### **We'll watch and discuss 2 video segments at each of our 7 gatherings**

- SUNDAY mornings beginning July 8 in Rooms 103/104 (9:30 am) with Mike and Diane Spurgeon
- MONDAY nights beginning July 9 in Rooms 103/104 (7 pm) with Deacon Rich and Carl Phipps
- MONDAY nights Beginning July 9 in Rooms 201/202 (7 pm) in Spanish with Milton Galván and Maria Lam
- MONDAY nights beginning July 9 in Rooms 203/204 (7 pm) for EDGE and LIFETEEN (grades 6-12) with Marlen Coles and Youth Core Teams.

### **SEVEN MEETINGS with TWO SEGMENTS per MEETING**

1. July 8/9: (1) God's Love Poured Out, (2) The Breath of God
2. July 15/16: (3) Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire, (4) The Spirit and Our Lady

### ONE WEEK BREAK for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

3. July 29/30: (5) Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (6) The Spirit and the Eucharist
4. August 5/6: (7) The Spirit of Adoption, (8) The Spirit and the Sacraments
5. August 12/13: (9) Fruits of the Holy Spirit, (10) The Spirit and the Desert
6. August 19/20: (11) The Spirit Convicts, (12) The Spirit's Freedom
7. August 26/27: (13) The Spirit Gives Witness, (14) The Spirit Remembers

For more information, contact Therese Thiedeman at 301-645-7112, [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org)



**Luncheon Cruise - Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House celebrates its 60th Anniversary aboard the Spirit of Washington  
600 Water St., SW, Washington, DC 20024**

**Sunday, August 12, 2018  
Boarding time: 10:45 am  
Cruise time: 11:30 - 1:30 pm**

Bountiful luncheon buffet, Cash bar, DJ entertainment, Raffles - Tickets must be purchased from Loyola on the Potomac to get discounted price: \$60.00 per person before July 15. \$75.00 per person July 16 and later.

For Reservations/Tickets, contact Alice Case at (301) 392-0819 or [alice.case@loyolaretreat.org](mailto:alice.case@loyolaretreat.org)

See [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com) for additional events this summer!

### ***Friday Faith and Fellowship Group***



***Join the group every  
2nd Friday of the  
month for Movie Night,  
and for bible study and  
music each 3rd, 4th,  
and occasional  
5th Friday. 7:00 PM***

***Next movie night is July 13th***