

June 23, 2019

TIME FOR CHANGE!

Time for Change. Nobody likes change. Any major changes takes us away from our comfort zone. Changes happen at the individual level, at the family level, at the workplace level, or at the local level (county). For us at OLHOC as a parish community, a "family of families" united in Christ, changes can take many forms.

When we began the capital campaign 3 years ago, it involved many different changes following consultation with all parishioners for example: a 25 year-old carpet covering the entire church being replaced by new tiles from Italy, 400 25-year old moveable chairs (many of them beyond repair and becoming a hazard to our people) being replaced by brand-new wooden, immovable pews custom-made for our parish in a factory in Pennsylvania (providing a total seating capacity of 550 as opposed to 400 earlier. You will recall that in the summer 2017 (just two years ago), the first phase of our capital campaign was completed after we moved all Masses in the old Social Hall (allowing time for the laying of the new tiles and the installation of fixed new pews. For some of us, it was a radical change: the chair, or the row of chairs we may have used week after week for as many as 27 years was gone, the comfortable seating of a cushioned chair gone too, replaced by hard wood pew; for our 50 volunteer musicians (belonging to 8 wonderful different choirs serving the 8 different Masses we have every week-end) the amazing change of acoustics (wooden pews and tiles provide much more reverberation/echo than wall-to-wall carpet and upholstered chairs) ...and so on and on...Two years later (after the completion of the entire church renovation), some of us have totally forgotten those major changes, some of us (in large numbers) have joined our parish in the last two years and have no clue of what we talk about, but some of us (Hopefully a minority) may still recall with nostalgia the "good old days" and the "homy" feeling of the old church. Yes, any major change in a church can enhance our way of worshipping (qualitatively spiritually or quantitatively, such as a major increased capacity of attendance as we have done) provides some pain, and a need for acceptance and adaptation.

You will be happy to learn that at long last our capital campaign began 3 years ago is coming to an end: you recall that we just completed the Phase 2: the renovation of our Social Hall, now renamed Father Martin Hall at the end of January five months ago (with a blessing by Bishop Michael Fisher and grand opening on Saturday February 2, 2019 - Feast Day of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple - and over 300 parishioners participating). We are now entering into the detailed design of the final Phase (Phase 3): as included in the original renovation plan, we will essentially focus on the renovation of the Narthex (entrance into the church), building a small adoration chapel within the Narthex, but accessible only from the outside (see the blue lines on the floor near the current Blessed Sacrament Chapel) and a multipurpose room (help desk, office space, meeting space, confessional space) surrounded by glass walls/doors also inside the Narthex (see blue lines on floor near the piano) and the installation of a high steeple (with lit golden or silver cross on top) replacing the small wood cross we currently have on top of the Narthex). You already had seen the design of the steeple (it was on the top cover of our campaign materials) and we you can now imagine the interior renovation of the Narthex: the old pinkish tiles will be replaced by new tiles (we will display shortly the various choices we are considering) throughout the entire narthex (it was to be included in the First Phase of renovation of the church, but we decided to postpone it for lack of finance at that time).

Praise the Lord! We thank the Lord for your generosity, as we now have enough funds collected and set aside in our separate Capital Campaign Account to complete Phase 3. However, as your pastor, I encourage you to continue funding the Capital Campaign, as from experience we know that we can always have to face unexpected costs during implementation. The original capital campaign was based on 3-year pledges (36-month installments from July 2016 through July 2019). Many of you have already fulfilled your entire pledges and we are most grateful for your generosity. Some of you have still some outstanding pledges and I will encourage you, if you can, to complete your pledges by the end of July (one more month). For those of you who had not pledged earlier, especially the many new parishioners who have joined us in the last three years, I will encourage you to make whatever additional

contribution you can make in the next three months: July, August, and September. This is the last call for completing the funding of our capital campaign. All works of the final Phase III are expected to be completed before September 2020, end of our celebrating 40 years- 1980-2020.

As our maintenance expenditures have increased, our Finance Council is considering ways to increase the regular, non-capital revenues, collections, essentially encouraging you to tithe if you can. Jesus has encouraged us to share generously all the gifts that God the Father is providing us: time, talent and treasure. Our parish is doing very well on sharing time and talent: we have close to 400 volunteers (some parishes have less than 10). I believe that overall we can do better in sharing financial resources with the church, including the poor assisted by our church. Jesus says that we have to give not only from our surplus but also from our needs, meaning that we should feel some pain. St. Paul told us in today's first reading (June 19, 2 Corinthians 9:7) "God loves a cheerful giver." Nobody likes change, even small, in ways of living. Nobody likes pain. Your suggestions on how to make the best possible use of our current resources are most appreciated. In addition, if you have an accounting, financial management background or business, would you consider joining our current Finance Council? Just contact my office or me and we will have your application considered by the next Finance Council.

The most difficult changes in any organization are the changes in personnel. Our own parish has seen many changes of priests and staff in the last five years. First and foremost, by early July, our parish will have had four different Parochial Vicars in the last seven years (Fr. John Clark, Fr. Lopez, Fr. Santiago, and now Fr. Philip Ilg). In the previous 35 years of our existence, we had no parochial vicar and only four pastors (Fr. Aliata, Fr. Dignan, Fr. Crowley, and myself). The change of priests affect everyone in the parish and the decision to transfer priests is made by our Archbishop -another major change for all of us: since May 21st, the 140 parishes of the Archdiocese have a new Shepherd, Archbishop Wilton Gregory. In the last four years, we have had three different nuns assisting our parish, and in the last 2 years, we had three different Office Managers. More recently, and as announced first to our latest Parish Council on June 13, Mrs. Therese Thiedeman.

Mrs. Therese Thiedeman, completing 6 years of outstanding service to our CCD children (400 this year) and their families, had let me know her resignation: effective September 1, 2019, she will no longer have the responsibility of our CCD religious education program. On behalf of the entire Parish Council, our clergy, our staff, all CCD Volunteers, all our children and their parents, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Thiedeman for her leadership, her hard work and dedication over the past 6 years. She helped bring much innovation to our CCD program and this was recognized by the staff and managers dealing with Education Programs at the Pastoral Center (helping the Archbishop to manage all parish activities, including education/formation). She has a gift to attract volunteers and I have just written a letter to all CCD Volunteers (catechists, teen aides, office helpers, adult assistants, substitutes) thanking them for all their time and efforts and encouraging all of them to stay on so as to assure that the innovative program put in place by Mrs. Thiedeman will continue in the coming year and beyond. As recommended by Mrs. Thiedeman and our own staff, we are now going ahead with advertising the vacant position of Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) from Pre K to 8th grade. All CCD volunteers have been invited and encouraged to apply for this position. I now extend this invitation to all our parishioners that may be interested (the vacancy announcement is included in the next page of this Weekly Bulletin and will also be put with more details on our website).

May God give us all the strength and courage to accept any major change affecting our own life or someone close to us. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our daily decisions! May we all be inspired by the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which we celebrate at all Masses this week- end and also by having two Separate **Eucharistic Procession** at 12:30 pm and 6:15 pm this Sunday June 23!

*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

Body and Blood of Christ

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Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Please join us for this year's VBS, "A Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer ...with Amazing Angels and Super Saints", July 22-26, 9 am - noon. Ages 4-11 are most welcome as participants; 12 - 17 as youth volunteers; and 18-102 as adult volunteers (see Therese about becoming VIRTUS-compliant, child protection trained). Registration is online: www.olhoc.org/vbs

Volunteers for Summer Activities and Beyond

We are currently recruiting adult volunteers (ages 18+) to work with our parish programs for children and youth over the summer and for the 2019-20 Year (chaperones, Vacation Bible School volunteers, catechists, assistants, mentors, substitutes, office helpers, Youth Core Team members, All Youth Night helpers, OLLC Preschool volunteers, childcare providers during parish programs, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, or are a parent of a child/youth in any of these programs, you are NEEDED!

Adult Volunteers (ages 18+) who have substantial contact with minors (under 18) or vulnerable adults are required to undergo Child Protection Training and get an electronic background check. The next Archdiocesan class for Child Protection taking place locally is Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Archbishop Neale School in La Plata. Spaces are "first registered, first served". To register, establish an account at VIRTUS.org and select that particular class for training. Please see Nieda in the office for more information or visit.

www.olhoc.com/safety

Outreach news

The OLHOC Outreach Committee is now collecting school supplies (new pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.) for the next school year. A drop-off box can be found in the Father Martin Hall. All donations will be taken to Children's Aid Society of Waldorf. Thank you all!

There will be no Outreach Committee meeting until September. Enjoy the summer!

The next OLHOC Shepherd's Table is August 22, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.

Non-perishable food donations to "Sharing Sunday" may be left in the designated box near the door to Fr. Martin Hall. All donations go to the Food Bank of Maryland.

During the summer months cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you!

OLLC Preschool

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration is open! Parishioners, please share this information with families you know who may be looking for Catholic Preschool for their child or grandchild, and be sure you have registered your child for fall. For info or to register: email the preschool director, Nieda, at preschool@olhoc.org or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.

****Help Wanted****

Coordinator of Religious Education

After 6 years as the Religious Education coordinator, Mrs. Thiedeman will be leaving in September. Mrs. Thiedeman has devoted much of her time and energy into our program and will be missed.

We are now recruiting for a Coordinator of Religious Education to begin training in August. The selection criteria includes being a practicing Catholic committed to the teachings of the church, with at least 2 years experience as a catechist. The position entails working evenings and weekends. Organizational, planning skills, proficiencies in Microsoft Office are required. Bilingual in English and Spanish is preferred.

Please see our website- www.olhoc.com for information on applying. The deadline to apply is July 5, 2019

Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Wednesday Scripture Study— The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass.

Divine Mercy— Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

40th Anniversary of OLHoC

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to the office regarding what you feel we can/should do to celebrate 40 years of being a Parish. Anyone wishing to help in organizing, please call the office.

We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
Dennis Hook
Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
Nestor Ermelindo Molina
Doris Chesley
James Thompson
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Vicky Welch
Naomi Lilly
Sterling Greene
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Rosano Wheeler
Larry McGraw
Vivian Truxon
Kenny Lindsay

Pat Fisher
Christ Goldhammer
Adele Alvey
Dorothy Neal
Dunnie Proctor
Shirley Ehman
K.D. Dillard
Josephina Knapp
Maria Townsend
Chrystal Beauregard
Sheryl Carter
Alex Leon
Sharketer Butler
Steven Bowling
Edna Yarngo
Kathly Grimes
Damien Price

Sheny Padilla
Richard White
Mary Dooley
Victor Cordero
Georgiana Norgren
Marie Marie Bottorf
and all our military and civilians serving in
harm's way.

Please pray for the soul of *Elira Andrews*

*Please let us know if any names should be removed
from the list.*



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, June 22, 9:00 AM: Mike and Dottie Clark
Saturday, June 22, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, June 23, 8:30 AM: Rigo Jansen (+)
Sunday, June 23, 10:00 AM: Deacon Richard Dubicki
Sunday, June 23, 11:30 AM: Fr. Robert Verrigni
Sunday, June 23, 7:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory
Monday, June 24, 9:00 AM: Adjutant Rolande Desiree Etammane (+)
Tuesday, June 25, 9:00 AM: Fr. Jeff
Wednesday, June 26, 9:00 AM: Adjutant Rolande Desiree Etammane (+)
Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 PM: Elira Andrews (+)
Thursday, June 27, 7:00 PM: Adjutant Rolande Desiree Etammane (+)
Friday, June 28, 9:00 AM: Fr. Riley

Prayer to Saint Joseph

O glorious Saint Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary, ever virgin, and the head of the Holy Family. You have been chosen by Christ's vicar as the heavenly patron and protector of the Church founded by Christ.

Protect the Holy Father, our sovereign pontiff, and all bishops and priests united with him. Be the protector of all who labor for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life, and grant that all peoples of the world may follow Christ and the Church he founded.

Quo Vadis Camp- The Office of Priest Vocations annual Quo Vadis Camp for high school aged young men will be held at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary July 28-31, 2019. For four days, high school aged young men, who desire to grow in holiness, will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic adoration, as well time for fraternity, sports, and reflection. Bus transportation is available. More information is available and registration is open at www.DCpriest.org. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations (vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020) with any questions.

Mass Readings for June 30, 2019.

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

1 Kings 16:16b, 19-20

***Second Reading**

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

***Gospel**

Luke 9:51-62

YOUTH NEWS

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Steubenville Conference:

Please pray for the youth and chaperones who are on retreat at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio this weekend. Thank you to all who generously support our youth so they can encounter Christ through these awesome opportunities

Camp Covecrest - August 4-10, 2019 in Tiger, Georgia

Join us for Life Teen summer camp - Camp Covecrest, in the North Georgia Mountains, for an amazing and transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith (i.e. high ropes, messy games, obstacle course, zip line, white water rafting, team building experiences, music, talks, reflections, Mass, Adoration & personal growth). For more details, watch a video & to register visit www.olhoc.org/camp

Join Our Youth Support Team which is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. All volunteers must be Virtus Compliant. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website or talk to Marlen Coles.

For more Youth Events or questions contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org or visit: www.olhoc.org/ym

Celebrate the 4th of July at the Foot of the Cross

Join us as we celebrate the 4th of July at the Foot of the Cross. Prepare for Mass with Prelude Music by the OLHOC Youth Choir at 5:30 pm followed by an Outdoor Mass for the United States of America at 6:00 pm. Following the Outdoor Mass, there will be a concert by Libation, games and activities for all ages from 7-9pm. Fireworks will begin once it gets dark. Bring your own picnic and lawn chair. To volunteer or for more information please visit www.olhoc.org/july4

Get ready for a
RADICAL
Vacation
Bible School
Adventure

July 22-26, 2019
9am - 12 noon daily

Registration Online NOW

Kids (ages 4-11)
Youth Volunteers (12-17)
Adult Volunteers (18-102)

**A Radical Ride on the
Wings of Prayer**
...with Amazing Angels & Super Saints

Your Church: The Lord's House

Please continue to respect your church, the Lord's house, and **refrain from taking any food or beverage into the Church.** If your children need food or beverages, please use the cry room. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as footrests. Thank you!