

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

In the Introduction to his Encyclical "THE GOSPEL OF LIFE", St John Paul II reminds us that "*The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus' message... It is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as the GOOD NEWS to the people of every age and culture... At the dawn of salvation, it is the BIRTH of a Child which is proclaimed as GOOD NEWS...The source of this great joy is the Birth of the Savior, but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth... When Jesus presents the heart of his redemptive mission, he says he came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10)..It is in that new and eternal life that all the aspects and stages of human life achieve their full significance.*"

Last weekend, we celebrated "RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY". Both Deacon Rich and Deacon Bill preached beautiful homilies about "respecting lives at all stages" from the beginning of the embryo in the womb to natural death" with special emphasis on protecting the "unborn". St John Paul II encouraged all of us to preach the Gospel of Life to all people at all times. We need to fight the growing culture of death. The gravest attack on life in our current culture is abortion of the unborn. The Catholic Church has consistently affirmed for 2,000 years the moral evil of every procured abortion (Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC 2271). Because it should be treated as a person from conception, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed like every other human being (CCC 2323). Since 1973, there have been about 61 million abortions in our country. Our priority as Christians is to oppose intrinsically evil acts, including through the way we vote on public policies. In this context, protection of the unborn is a preeminent priority.

Last week, we shared with you Part 1 of 2 of the summary of the US Catholic Bishops' reflection "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*" (Insert in last week's bulletin) about the core principles that underlie Catholic engagement in the political realm. This week, we share with you Part 2 about the process by which these principles are applied to the act of voting and taking positions on policy issues (this week's bulletin insert). You are also invited to

read the entire document online at www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship. Our responsibility as Catholics is to participate in the electoral process and vote after having formed our conscience taking account the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In addition to our votes, we are also asked to help shape public opinion and public policies. While as Church representatives, we cannot get involved in supporting individual candidates nor political parties, we can demonstrate our support for moral choices taught by the Catholic Church. Last Sunday, as we did in earlier years, all our parishioners were invited to join in the life chain initiative (three parishes were involved in Charles County). About 30 parishioners showed up at 1:45 pm in Mary's Circle. We then walked to the intersection of St Thomas Drive and St Charles Parkway, and spent about 90 minutes standing up with pro-life signs (e.g. Pray for an end to Abortion, Abortion kills babies, Jesus Forgives and Heals) similar to those signs we carry every year at the March for Life in Washington D.C. Many drivers honked their horns in support of pro-life, only very few showed signs of disapproval.

In this month of October, RESPECT LIFE MONTH, let us pray that with St John Paul II we will keep proclaiming the GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the precious GIFT OF LIFE. Help us to protect and respect all human life, from conception through natural death. Help us to support the dignity of every human life. Help us to promote a culture of life as opposed to a culture of death. Send upon us the Fire and the Love of your Holy Spirit so that we are able to LOVE and RESPECT everyone including our enemies. Help keep our hearts united in Love with the Sacred Heart of your Son Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Your Mother Mary. Help us to pray the Rosary regularly, asking for Peace and Justice in our country and for a prompt end to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

*One in Christ,
Father Alain*



Religious Education News

Religious Education has begun on line! If you have not yet enrolled your child, please go to <https://olhoc.com/re> to enroll your child in online learning.

For more information, please contact Nereida Tellechea at cre@olhoc.org

Mass intentions

If you would like to have a Mass said in 2021, the calendar is open in the office. Sign up for the Mass you would like so as to assure the date you want is available.

Suggested stipend is \$10

Community Outreach

The holiday house is in the Narthex. It is our opportunity as a parish to give a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal to those less fortunate than we are. If we all give each week we are able, we will soon have enough to feed people in need.

We have begun our annual coat drive. New and gently used coats are being collected in the Father Martin hall, along with hats, scarves, and gloves.

~Pre-school News~

Our pre-school resumed classes on Wednesday, September 9th. Following COVID19 guidelines, we currently have one classroom of 3-4 year olds who are all very happy to be back in school with other 3-4 year olds. We hope to be able to add another class in January, 2021.

OLLC gives preschoolers a beginning in their Catholic education. Many families need financial assistance to attend our pre-school. If you are in a position to donate, please make your check payable to Our Lady's Little Christians Preschool, or for online instructions, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org

CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

We hope you will join us!

The Youth Support Team 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 (hospitality, chaperones, fundraisers, prayer team..), confirmation mentors, or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website www.olhoc.org/

“Into the Breach”

OLHOC and the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a six-week journey on the video series “Into the Breach.” This video series looks to answer the questions of in today’s world, what it means to be a man and how to live as a man.

The journey begins this Thursday, October 15 at 7 pm. Participants can join in person in the Father Martin Hall, or by Zoom.

This series is geared towards Catholic men, but families may also join. For more information, please call the office for more information.

ELECTION 2020

- OCT 13: DEADLINE: REGISTER TO VOTE**
- OCT 20: DEADLINE: REQUEST MAIL-IN BALLOT**
(Option if you do not want to vote in person)
- OCT. 26-NOV. 2: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING**
- NOV. 3: ELECTION DAY VOTING & LAST DAY TO MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT**

MDCATHOLIC.ORG/ELECTIONS

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Bariantos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittitan
 Sid and Suszanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dinnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Lorrin Green

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trenia Price
 Josephina Knapp
 Norm Green

The Dixons
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 Gloria Snyder
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

Please pray for the souls of Griselda Urias Argueta, and Jesus Morales



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, October 10, 9:00AM: Joseph Fitzpatrick (+)
 Saturday, October 10, 5:00 PM: Holy Souls
 Sunday, October 11, 8:30 AM: Omosi Dako (+)
 Sunday, October 11, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
 Sunday, October 11, 11:30 AM: Arit Ita-Idedevo
 Sunday, October 11, 7:00 PM: Father Alain
 Monday, October 12, 9:00 AM: Abigail & Charles Strawberry
 Tuesday, October 13, 9:00 AM: Brenda Dako
 Wednesday, October 14, 9:00 AM: Julie Toscano (+)
 Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 PM: Patou Toney (+)
 Thursday, October 15, 9:00 AM: Mary Lagman
 Friday, October 16, 9:00 AM: James Woya

Sunday morning Mass times:
 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am

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

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday-Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

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

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for October 18, 2020

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

***Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

***Gospel**

Matthew 22:15-21



www.usccb.org

Most of you will have already received the above links directly in our weekly flocknotes. A gentle reminder: if you do not receive flocknotes, we will encourage you to request your name be added to our parish-wide distribution list. Just send an email request to office@OLHOC.org or call the office (we only need an email address).

October is National Domestic Violence Month Finding God in Situations of Abuse

*Testimony from Julie Sarwatt, Sacristan at St. Camillus, sharing her experience of domestic abuse. Julie states that her testimony would not have been possible without the wonderful ministry of her deceased pastor,
Fr. Chris Fr. Christopher J. Posch O.F.M., who died July 5, 2020.*

I see God in every brother or sister I meet. I look at them and smile because I am always happy to see my brother or sister in the Lord! It is through these warm and loving encounters that friendships form and develop. Some of these friendships deepen and grow in love and become permanent.

In my life I had that kind of friendship that ended up in marriage. As the Bible says, “the two shall become one.” So we became one through the blessings of the Church.

Life seemed good for a few years and then I noticed I was being controlled. My individual freedom and privileges were increasingly getting more and more limited. My telephone conversations were sometimes being listened on and we would have a lot of arguments about it. He bought and installed an extra caller-id (hidden) so that he had a record of ALL incoming calls!

As a hairdresser, I used to partly work at home. Some of the calls I received at home were from my clients. The caller ID did not always have their names but had their husband’s names. My husband would call these numbers back to find out why they called the house! To say the least, it was very embarrassing and hurtful that the person I was married to did not trust me!

The other thing he did was to check the mileage in the car to see how far I had driven any day and make issues out of the information. I was surprised and shocked!

My family and friends were being criticized and sometimes called names. I was being isolated from everybody. At one time my house keys disappeared/hidden and I could not go anywhere – to work, Church and anywhere else – without him driving me. I was a prisoner in my own home!

Most of the time alcohol was involved. He would rattle off a litany of insults with belittling and humiliation and, at times, things became physical.

I am glad there were no children involved. If there were, they would have learned all this bad behavior and think that that was normal and acceptable behavior since parents are the role models and first teachers of their children. Once a spouse hits the other spouse, the love covenant is broken! No one hates his/her own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the Church.

I found help and I have been free for 18 years! I’m now an advocate for those who suffer abuse!

If you have experienced or are experiencing these things at your home or in your relationship, please, seek help. It is private and confidential. Do not suffer alone. Help is ALWAYS available! You can contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 799-7233.

Whoever mistreats another is in darkness; walks in darkness and does not know where he/she is going because the darkness has blinded his/her eyes. Pope Francis says, “In the face of UNJUST and PAINFUL situations, faith brings us the light which scatters the darkness.”