

June 27, 2021: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

VISITING FATHER EAMON DIGNAN

Today was filled with much JOY. I was able to go and visit Fr. Eamon Dignan, our former pastor at OLHOC who served for 17 long years: 1987-2004. It was a most JOYFUL morning. I had been told that Fr. Dignan's memory was failing him. I was simply planning to give him the Eucharist and say some prayers. I discovered that we could have a small conversation talking about his old days at OLHOC. He may not know where he is now or may not recognize people he has known for the last 10 years. But as soon as I mentioned Waldorf and Our Lady Help of Christians, his eyes brightened. He had a BIG SMILE.

When I reminded him that he was the one who built our church (completed in 1990), he immediately referred to the fact that it was hard to find the money and he had to cut expenditures (sounds familiar?). We even laughed together as he began to speak in Gaelic ...to get a conversation going, I had just reminded him that he was Irish, and I was French...as he recognized my French accent.

Before I gave the EUCHARIST to Fr. Dignan, we prayed together the Our Father, which he remembered very well, and he could also recite the "*Lamb of God*" prayer. Praise the Lord!

Fr. Dignan was sitting comfortably in a wheelchair, and he looked peaceful and healthy. It was a most pleasant morning outdoors: sunny and cool...He clearly enjoyed having someone to visit him. Our conversation reminded me of the pastoral ministry I provided to elderly Jesuit priests in Weston, M.A. when I was at the seminary in Boston. One of the retired priests had lost almost all memory. However, he was delighted to speak with me in French and kept asking me always the same questions... and I gave him always the same answers, which he forgot immediately... and he kept smiling.

Two years ago, on June 2nd, 2019, Fr. Eamon Dignan visited our parish as we celebrated with him his 60th anniversary to the priesthood. He was so joyful to be back with all of us at the 10 am Mass. He had the opportunity to meet many of his friends and he was "all smiles". I had arranged that Deacon Bill picked him up at St John Regis, Hollywood, since he had already begun losing his short-term memory. For example, when he returned to Hollywood that day, he could not remember he had been at OLHOC for Mass when asked by his pastor Fr. Schmidt.

Fr. Schmidt was the one who had told me recently that as the health of Father Dignan had deteriorated, he could no longer stay in residence at his rectory and

was now living at St Mary's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown (21585 Peabody St, Leonardtown). It is about 45 minutes away from Waldorf (as you well know, every place is 45 minutes from Waldorf: the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the St Matthew Cathedral, the White House, National Airport, Nationals Baseball Stadium, depending on traffic).

The activities Director of the Center was most grateful and arranged for Fr. Dignan to come and meet me outdoor. She agreed that next visit, I could meet him inside and celebrate Mass with him in one of the common areas. Fr. Dignan would love to have visitors from Our Lady. Some of you may have already been at the St Mary's Center. Currently, they still have some Covid restrictions and limit each resident to two visitors a day for thirty minutes per visit. You must call in advance to make an appointment (preferably two or three days ahead) and talk directly to the Activities Director (301-475-8000).

I chose to write to you about Fr. Dignan as a reminder that there are so many people that live alone away from their friends and families. I am sure that each one of us knows someone like Fr. Dignan who will benefit from a short visit. This is part of the Corporal Works of Mercy. With the psychological impact of the pandemic on so many people, visiting the Homebound is more important than ever.

We are all grateful to Fr. Dignan for his sixty-two years of priesthood, including 17 years of commitment and dedication to OLHOC. May God continue blessing Fr. Dignan and may you all join me in praying for him, his relatives, and all his friends.

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain



Mass Protocol

Following the guidelines by the Archdiocese of Washington, and the state of Maryland, we are making changes to our procedures:

- *No need to “sign-up” for Mass
- *We encourage everyone to continue wearing a mask for the time being
- *Keep 3 ft. between families. If you wish more distance, utilize the side aisles for 6 ft.

- *If you are feeling ill, please stay home and watch Mass on YouTube

General Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass has been lifted

The dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day obligation has been lifted. The reinstatement of the obligation to attend Mass begins this weekend. Full in-person participation of the Sunday Eucharist is welcomed, which is the source and summit of our Catholic faith (cf. Code of Canon Law, canon 1246-1247 and Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.2180).

This does not apply to those who are ill, have reason to believe they have been exposed recently to the coronavirus, or any other serious or contagious illness. Anyone confined to a hospital, home or nursing facility, having a serious underlying health condition will continue to have dispensation.

Please consult with Father Alain if you have questions regarding your obligation to attend Mass.

Community Outreach

On June 17, 2021, the OLHOC Filipino community prepared a wonderful meal for Shepherd’s Table at Good Shepherd Church.

Many thanks to Dr. Rosario Fernandez, Abigail Strawberry and all those who worked so hard to make this wonderful event possible.

“Sharing Sunday” continues for the collection of non-perishable foods for the Food Bank and Family Shelter. The need is as great as ever for families in Waldorf! Your donations can be left in the Fr. Martin Hall all week long. Thank you OLHOC for all your support!

Our next Shepherd’s Table will be on August 19, 2021. The next Outreach meeting will be September 15 at 7 pm in the Father Martin Hall.



Father Ben

Sadly, Sunday July 4th will be Father Ben’s last day at Our Lady Help of Christians. Please join us after all Masses to say good-bye to our next S.O.F.A.

Religious Education News

It is with deep regret that we announce the resignation of Nereida Tellechea, our Coordinator of Religious Education for the past two years. Mrs. Tellechea has been a valuable and well-respected member of the Religious Education Team, two years as Coordinator and as an Assistant prior. Her work, contribution, including the extended hours of dedication have been greatly appreciated. We will miss Mrs. Tellechea’s charm, professionalism, empathy and strength, especially during last year’s COVID challenges.

We are now looking for someone to fill her shoes. If you are interested in being a leader in religious education at OLHOC, please see the job description on our website- www.olhoc.com Interested candidates may send their resume to pastor@olhoc.org

***We are asked to pray for:**

Brandon Mack
Nestor Ermelindo Molina
James Thompson
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Joseph Albrittian
Sid and Suszanna Marcus
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Ann Marie Hobart
Larry McGraw
Ilene Custer
Derrick Webster
Julie Davis
David DeMarr
Dunnie Proctor
Amelia Vinceguerra
Lorraine Celijewski
Cren Wolden
Tabitha Barton
Maria Townsend

Sheryl Carter
Alex Leon
Sharketer Butler
Steven Bowling
Edna Yarngo
Kathly Grimes
Sheny Padilla
David Mesler
Victor Cordero
Georgiana Norgren
Marie Bottorf
Dorian Webster
Dionne Gause
Billy Dexter
Trenia Price
Erick M. Knapp
Norm Green
Sarah Dixon
Grace Albrittain
Elaine Moses

Yvonne Buford
Karen Zimmerman
Steve Wyloge
Terri Elizabeth McAllister
Burnette
Joanne Johnson
Mike Spurgeon
Mary A. Dyson
Kevin Viel Sr.
Ligia Lam
David Stanley
Jim McMahon
Drew Shuda
Wilma Cruz
Fr. Eamon Dignan
Dr. Michael St. Thomas
Bessie Davis
Dorian Webster
Derrick Webster
Brandon Mack

Dionne Gause

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

**Names will be removed after 3
months unless you notify the office*

*Please pray for the souls of
Theodore "Ted" Miller, and
Christopher R. Barnes Jr.*



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, June 26,

9:00AM: Frederick Lagman
5:00 PM: Luciano Dizon (+)

Sunday, June 27,

8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
10:00 AM: Nicole Brady
11:30 AM: Larry Sutton
1:00 PM: Mr. & Mrs. Ian King
7:00 PM: Fr. Felipe Nery

Monday, June 28,

7:00 AM: Bonnie Mesler
9:00 AM: Vanessa Dela Cruz Manuel

Tuesday, June 29,

9:00AM: Anthony Coles

Wednesday, June 30,

9:00 AM: Charles Strawberry Jr.
7:00 PM: Strawberry family

Thursday, July 1,

9:00 AM: Henry Kan Nzoke (+)

Friday, July 2,

7:00 AM: Alicia Gomez
9:00 AM: Allison Lam
7:00 PM: Newly Ordained Priests

“You are all called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion” Pope John Paul II

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 July 4, 2021

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Ezekiel 2:2-5

***Second Reading**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

***Gospel**

Mark 6:1-6a

www.usccb.org



Divine Mercy Chaplet Saturday, July 2, 2021

*We begin at 3:00 pm with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed with the Litany for Priest.
Come pray for those who pray for us.*

James– Pearls for Wise Living Course

Our next 10-session course will be James – Pearls for Wise Living by Ascension Press.

It will be every Sunday from 13 Jun – 15 Aug 21, 0930 (between the 8:30 and 11:30 Masses), in the Father Martin Hall and via Zoom

Presenter, Jeff Cavins, shows how James' teachings speak to us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our Faith. The Book of James helped a fledgling Church live out its Faith in the face of persecution and a worldview opposed to the gospel and you will discover wisdom you can apply to your own life, now.

To Register on Ascension Press:

<https://study.ascensionpress.com/studies/55902/registrations/new>

Get Workbook (optional):

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/james-pearls-for-wise-living-study-set-1?variant=7553718616100>

Zoom Meeting Link:

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? . For more information, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN

Since last year, OLHOC cut back on many of the services we had paid for. Due to financial restraints, the lawn maintenance is all done by volunteers, we no longer have a staff person to help out with the facilities, and we cut back on our cleaning services to once a week.

Please do your part in helping to keep our church clean.

*****REMINDER*****

- Wash your hands before coming to Mass and sanitize when entering the church
- We are encouraging everyone to continue wearing their masks for the safety of those who are un-vaccinated
- Maintain a 3 ft distance from non family members. If you prefer 6 ft, please use the side aisles
- If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on www.olhoc.com at 10 am on Sundays