

## October 17, 2021: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### IS JESUS LOOKING AT YOU?

In the amazing encounter of JESUS with the RICH YOUNG MAN (Mark 10: 17-30), the word "Look" is mentioned three times. First, JESUS is LOOKING AT the young man. Then, HE LOOKS AROUND and talks to HIS disciples and finally, HE LOOKS AT THEM . QUESTION: Right now, as you are reading this column, IS JESUS LOOKING AT YOU? The answer is YES! JESUS IS GOD. And as God, He is present everywhere, He has all powers. He knows everything about each one of us: our past, present, and future. He can certainly look at us at all times.

I recall a retreat for priests given by Father George Ashenbrenner (Jesuit Spiritual Director) several years ago. He told us that every morning, as he wakes up he can hear Jesus say: "George, I LOVE YOU the way you are!" Like Father George we are all the unnamed YOUNG MAN: "Jesus, LOOKING at him, LOVED him..."(Mark 10:21). Jesus wanted good for him. This is the GOOD NEWS for all of us: "*Not only Jesus keeps looking at us, but HE KEEPS LOVING US THE WAY WE ARE.*" Do you believe this? If so, this is a life-changer. Our experiencing the Love of God in our daily life (despite all our tribulations and sufferings) is at the center of our Christian life. That personal relationship helps us to not only feel the presence of HIS LOVE but also helps us to be a TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS if, contrary to the Young Man , we LISTEN TO JESUS: "GO and sell what you have, give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then COME, FOLLOW ME" (Mark 10:21).

The Rich Young man had many qualities. He had observed God's commandments from his youth. He was looking for Jesus to help him: "Good teacher, What must I do to inherit eternal life?" This is a question we all want to ask Jesus. We all want to have eternal life, including happiness and peace while on earth. Jesus can read all the thoughts of the rich Young man. He knows that the rich young man has many possessions to which he is very attached. He therefore knows that there is ONE THING that the young Man lacks: he needs to sell what he has, give to the poor, to have treasure in Heaven, and follow Jesus, becoming a passionate disciple.

Jesus, then looking says to his disciples: "HOW HARD it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:23) . QUESTION : DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS HARD TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD? The answer is: YES ... and NO! YES, Jesus, many times talks about the Narrow Gate, the need to travel light (without encumbrances, detaching ourselves from this world, fixing our eyes on Heaven). AND ...NO, it is not hard. We do not have to make special efforts. Jesus gives us the answer as he responds to his disciples' question: "WHO CAN BE SAVED?" Jesus explains that "For MAN it is IMPOSSIBLE, but not for GOD." We cannot save ourselves, God alone can do it. SALVATION is a GIFT FROM GOD. We are SAVED by GRACE, God pours upon us all HIS Graces. As St Therese of Lisieux says so well: ALL IS GRACE! We do not have to do anything. We simply have to recognize in FAITH the Constant LOVE of God in our lives and open our hearts to the guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT!

The greatest source of GRACE comes from the Church and the SACRAMENTS instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ. In this YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL, let us avail ourselves of the Sacrament of RECONCILIATION, which is the best preparation to receive the EUCHARIST, the Center of Christian Life. Yes, we need to protect Jesus fully present in the Consecrated Host (see earlier columns about the "little" Eucharistic miracle at OLHOC). But we also need to receive Jesus in a state of grace. We cannot receive Jesus if we are in a state of grave (or mortal) sin. GO TO CONFESSION! GO TO CONFESSION REGULARLY. In the short passage of the Letter to the HEBREWS (4:14-16), we are reminded of the importance of God's MERCY this weekend: "So let us CONFIDENTLY approach the throne of GRACE to RECEIVE MERCY and to find GRACE for TIMELY HELP". We cannot save ourselves. Only God can help save us by pouring HIS GRACE upon us. Opening our hearts to GOD's GRACE will strengthen our FAITH in HIS SON OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. Grace will lead us to the Confessional where the priest acts "in the person of Christ" when he gives the absolution of sins.

I will close in quoting what I just read this morning when I was praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. These were the words Jesus spoke to an anonymous Benedictine Monk (found in book *IN SINU JESU*, entry of journal Sunday, February 1, 2009): "I AM HERE- REALLY PRESENT- available to you at any hour...I wait for you. I want to LISTEN to the cares and preoccupations that you carry like a HEAVY BURDEN. Give them all to ME. TRUST IN ME, and I will act: for Me nothing is insignificant. No detail of your life is too small and NO SIN OF YOURS too shameful to be brought to Me and abandoned at My feet...I AM THE LORD of all things in heaven and on earth, and TO ME NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE."

I invite you to reflect on the above message which applies to all of us, not just to monks or priests. This is the POWER OF GOD. This is the GOOD NEWS: the constant MERCIFUL LOVE of JESUS for each of us. This is a reminder that JESUS is REALLY PRESENT in the Blessed Sacrament, whether when exposed on the altar, or elevated at the time of CONSECRATION during Mass, or when we come forward to RECEIVE HIM AT COMMUNION. Not only can HE LOOK AT US and we can LOOK AT HIM, but HE can talk to us. We can LISTEN TO HIM and we can ask HIM to transform our hearts, to help us carry our burdens, to transform our lives: "COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO ARE TIRED AND BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." (Matthew 11:28)

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain



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**\*We are asked to pray for:**  
Dr. Michael St. Thomas  
Bessie Davis  
Brandon Mack  
Dionne Gause  
Jack Lyons  
Margaret Clark  
Joan Johnson  
Tess Franch

Francesc Franch  
Shirley Ehman  
Carmella Douglas  
Dorian Webster  
Derrick Webster  
Gram Baldwin

Branyah Mack  
Breihanna Mack  
Ernest Mac



### MASS INTENTIONS Mass Intentions this Week

**Saturday, October 16,**  
9:00AM: Tiffanie & Reginald  
Farrington

5:00 PM: Irene Rauer

**Sunday, October 17,**

8:30 AM: Victor Codero

10:00AM: Wilbur Etbauer (+)

11:30 AM: Soledad Ambuyoc (+)

1:00 PM: Knapp family

7:00 PM: OLHOC parishioners

**Monday, October 18,**

7:00 AM: Coles family

9:00AM: Loreto Montemayor (+)

**Tuesday, October 19,**

9:00AM: Aayden Gonzales

**Wednesday, October 20,**

9:00 AM: Milton Galvin Jr. (+)

7:00 PM: Lilian Barrios

**Thursday, October 21,**

9:00 AM: Gabriella Jaulbert

**Friday, October 22,**

7:00 AM: Mary Pruitt

9:00 AM: Gram Baldwin

*Please remember to pray for the  
Souls in Purgatory*

### COME BACK TO CHURCH- SAFELY

The dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day obligation has been lifted. The reinstatement of the obligation to attend Mass at church began at the end of June. Please consult with Father Alain if you have questions regarding your obligation to attend Mass.

We implemented and have regularly adjusted a conservative COVID protocol for OLHOC constantly referencing guidance from CDC, MD state government, Charles County, and Archdiocese of Washington.\*

- Masks are required inside our church and building for everyone over the age of five. This applies if you are vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- Maintain 3' social distance between household families.
- Wash hands frequently and use sanitizer when coming to Church.
- Stay home if you feel ill or vulnerable to Covid transmission.

\*These may change as situation dictates

**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@alhoc.org](mailto:office@alhoc.org).

### Mass Readings for October 24, 2021

*30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**\*First Reading**  
Isaiah 53:10-11

**\*Second Reading**  
Hebrews 5:1-6

**\*Gospel**

Mark 10:46-52

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



## Speak Lord, I'm listening!

## Domestic Violence

You don't deserve to be abused. Violence at home hurts! You are not alone. During the past difficult year many families suffered more abuse as unemployment increased, alcohol and drug use worsened and the world shrunk to the confines of the home. Now is the time to protect yourself and those who count on you for safety. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 (800) 799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence visit: [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace).

Catholic families deserve to be safe and loved at home. Yet one out of 4 women, 1 out of 7 men have experienced severe physical violence in an intimate relationship: being kicked, beaten, choked, burned, having a weapon used against them. Families suffering abuse can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 799-7233.

## 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](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org) or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at [RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com](mailto:RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com)

## COME AND LISTEN

If you are looking for a change in your life, this Catechesis is for you. Join Father Jan, two couples, and two Seminarians to learn more about your faith.

Classes are Monday and Thursday at 7 pm in the Fr. Martin Hall. The classes are geared for those 13 years old and above.

### *Weekly Eucharistic Adoration*

*We have an Adoration Chapel at OLHOC that provides a place for people to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The chapel is open Monday– Friday from 10 am– noon. Please sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-adoration40> Adoration is on Thursdays from 9 pm-10 pm in the church. Please come!*



take my  
HAND  
not my  
LIFE

## Pregnant? Help is Available

Call 1-800-712-4357, text HELPLINE to 313131, or visit [optionline.org](http://optionline.org) to find the nearest pregnancy resources near you.



### Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

The disastrous 1973 Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, thrust abortion-on-demand upon the nation, resulting in the deaths of millions of preborn babies every year. But that isn't enough for pro-abortionists. They also force taxpayers to pay for it.

Whether it is spending taxpayer money to fund abortion through private insurance mandates, Medicaid, health plans for federal employees, military personnel, women in abroad, there seems to be no end to the abortion industry's thirst for tax dollars.

Abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood continue to receive hundreds of millions of tax dollars every year under Title X, which subsidizes their overhead for promoting abortion, as they divert more and more resources towards abortion.

In 2012, Planned Parenthood reported a total income of \$1.14 billion. Taxpayers shelled out \$542 million to pad the abortion provider's bottom line through federal and state grants and contracts (*or 45% of its entire income*).

All the while, Planned Parenthood reduced non-abortion related programs like breast cancer screening and infertility treatment, and demanded that all its affiliate centers offer surgical abortion.

If we want to reduce the number of deaths induced by Planned Parenthood and other abortionists, we need to end their life line: taxpayer funding. *Pro-Life Articles*

### Community Outreach

Looking ahead Outreach will now be collecting boxed stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, canned green beans, corn and yams. Your donations may be left in the designated boxes in the Narthex. The Holiday House is there also for monetary donations.

Thank you OLHOC for your continued spirit of helping those in need in our community.

The Coat Drive will continue until the end of October. New and gently used coats, hats, gloves, etc. may be left in the Fr. Martin Hall, and will be taken to Children's Aid and distributed in the coming months.

The "Sharing Sunday" food collection also continues in the Fr. Martin Hall for the Food Bank and Women's Shelter.

The next Outreach meeting will be November 3, 2021 at 7p.m. In the Fr. Martin Hall.

The next Shepherd's Table will be on October 21, 2021 at Good Shepherd Church.

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Dedicated Parishioners are looking for a reliable used car. If anyone is planning on selling a car, please call the office. If anyone is in the position to donate a used car, it will be a blessing to the family in need (it would be a tax deduction for the donor).

Thank you!

#### **BABY BOTTLES**

Baby bottles are in the Narthex. Please pick one up on your way out, and return it with donations for the Catherine Foundation. Thank you!