

Our Parish Visitor

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Newsletter

40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood

Fr. Ray will celebrate his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday, 13 May 2012. Fr. Ray was ordained by Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle at the Cathedral of St. Matthew on 13 May 1972.

Members of the Pastoral Council and Stewardship Council invite all adult members of the parish to an evening reception at the Kentlands Mansion on Friday, 11 May 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Champagne, light refreshments and music will be provided. Come and enjoy an evening of celebration and remembrance of Fr. Ray's 40 years in the priesthood and 20 years as Pastor at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish.

On Saturday, 12 May 2012, Fr. Ray will preside at the 5:00 p.m. mass in honor of his anniversary. Immediately following, a family reception will be provided in Founders Hall for all parishioners. The reception will be sponsored by The Holy Name Society, Sodality, St. Monica Society and Mary of Nazareth Families.

Past Pastoral Council and Stewardship Council members and past OLVP staff are also invited to this reception.

Details on how to RSVP for these anniversary events will be provided in the parish bulletin in coming weeks. Please join Fr. Ray, his family, his friends, his colleagues and parishioners for this weekend celebration.

*Joyeux
Anniversaire*

Please contact Fr. Ray's Secretary, Kathleen Rooney at (301) 948-5536 x108 or krooney@olvp.org with questions about any of these events.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

05 APRIL 2012, 7:00 p.m.



GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

06 APRIL 2012, 7:00 p.m.



HOLY SATURDAY THE EASTER VIGIL

07 APRIL 2012, 8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

08 APRIL 2012

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Liturgy
9:00 a.m. – Family Liturgy
11:00 a.m. – Sacred Liturgy

Haiti

Canice Lawler has graciously agreed to serve as OLVP's new coordinator for our parish's partnership with Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Gonaives, Haiti.

Jane Stenson, the former coordinator, states: "I have thoroughly enjoyed helping to establish the relationship between our two parishes and will continue to support our sister parish in Gonaives. Canice brings a lot of energy, commitment, interest in Haiti and fluency in French. She is very well suited to keep our parish connected with our sister parish in Gonaives. Canice recently attended a special Archdiocesan program on Haiti and the many parishes who have twinning relationships with parishes and schools in Haiti. She will bring a fresh outlook and ideas and will work to deepen our relationship with Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Haiti. It has been a pleasure working with both Fr. Effener, the former pastor, Msgr. Suffrard, the current pastor, and Deacon Mortel, of the Baltimore Haiti Project."

Our parish would like to thank Jane for her efforts in establishing this missionary relationship between our parish and Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Gonaives, Haiti, and for her unwavering commitment to ensuring its continuation. Her care and concern for the people of Haiti have always been at the heart of this program. Jane will continue to assist Canice and the program as needed.

Fr. Mathew, Deacon Bob, our parish staff and I extend our best wishes for a prayerful Holy Week and the joy of a blessed Easter



Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, started in 2007, is still ongoing. New helpers are always needed and would be most welcome.

This is a very rewarding ministry – there are no deadlines to meet and no quotas and any work can be done at your convenience in the comfort of your own home.

Items can be knitted/crocheted/quilted in any color or pattern and suggested sizes are: 50" long x 24" – 26" wide or triangular for shawls; 30" x 34" for lap robes, and 26" x 29" for wheelchair users. *Please do not use fringe.*

If you are interested, or you have any questions, please call Ruth Duvall at 301-258-7566 or Rosemary Anderson at 301-926-4399.

New Staff

Elizabeth Fookes is a new member of the Parish Staff who will be assisting Michele Olewack with Faith Formation programs. Elizabeth is an OLVP parishioner and has been an active volunteer for many years. Her children attend Mary of Nazareth School.

St. Monica Society becomes active again

Members of the St. Monica Society are, once again, meeting on a regular basis. The Society was founded in the summer of 2005 to give an opportunity for widows and widowers to share fellowship, spirituality and service to others. Individuals outside of the parish are welcome to join.

The Society meets on the first Saturday of every other month at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Chapel in the Parish Barn for Mass or prayers. During the third week of the month, members meet for a social activity. Members take turns planning their social events and welcome new members to join at any time. For further information, contact Carol Anne Puglise at (301) 417-0839 or angpjl@aol.com.

Spring "Spruce-Up" Day

Saturday, 21 April 2012
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Rain date: 22 April 2012)
(1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Parishioners are needed to help with our annual spring cleaning of the parish grounds. Confirmation students and their families are especially encouraged to volunteer. All parishioners and children are encouraged to help weed, mulch, sweep and perform other tasks that will help our parish grounds look their best for the spring and summer. Individuals should bring their own work gloves, safety glasses and small gardening tools and should dress for the weather. Come make our parish grounds look beautiful!

Please volunteer



For further information, please contact Tony Glander, Chair, Facilities Committee: (301) 460-6404.

Sodality Welcomes New Officers

The following officers were elected to the Sodality Board:

- Prefect – Maria Martin
- Vice-Prefect – Connie Johnson
- Secretary – Peggy McEwan
- Treasure – Sandy Rutkowski

Sodalists will attend a mass on Monday, 26 March 2012 in honor of the Feast of the Annunciation. At this time, the new officers and new members will be installed. A wine and cheese reception will follow. The parish would like to thank Shelia Bouley for her faith-filled and dedicated service as Prefect of the Sodality for the past two years.

The Sodality will hold its Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, 15 April 2012 beginning with mass at 9:00 a.m. at the church followed immediately by brunch at the Lakewoods Country Club. All women and young ladies of the parish, their relatives and friends, are invited to attend. Contact: Joni Theis at (301) 977-9223 or jtheis@aol.com.

Season. – Fr. Ray

Pastoral Council

New Chair, Liturgy Life Committee: Anita Stiger has been appointed to complete the term of Chair, Liturgy Life Committee of the Pastoral Council. Anita is a long time-parishioner and has volunteered in many capacities. As Chair, she will assist with training new liturgical ministers, preparation for the liturgical seasons, including sacred music and environment and other tasks, as needed.

New Chair, Parish Life Committee: Another new member of the Pastoral Council is welcomed. Joe Young has been appointed Chair of the Parish Life Committee, assisting with sacramental life, social life and spiritual life of the parish. In this capacity Joe will work with the Holy Name Society, Sodality, St. Monica Society, and the Mary of Nazareth liaison to report on parish activities and facilitate communication between the council and parish groups.

Stewardship Council

New Facilities Committee Chair: Tony Glander has been appointed for a three year term as the new chair of the Facilities Committee of the parish's Stewardship Council. Tony is best known to the parish for his execution and installation of the beautiful stained glass windows in the church. As chair, he will help oversee the maintenance, repair and enhancement of all parish facilities. He will be assisted in his work with a newly established committee of volunteers. Anyone wishing to join this committee can contact Tony at (301) 460-6404.

Thank you to Brian Dougherty: For the past six years, Brian Dougherty has given countless hours of volunteer service to the parish as Chair of the Facilities Committee. Brian helped maintain the Parish Barn, Rectory and Church during difficult budget times. He personally performed many services and coordinated effectively with building service and landscaping contractors. The parish is very grateful for Brian's expertise and extraordinary dedication to maintaining the integrity and beauty of our parish's facilities.

Church Painting Completed

During the month of February, the complete Nave and Gathering Space of the church were repainted by Corning Construction Corporation of Beltsville, Maryland. A new shade of color was used in the church behind the altar, behind the Stations of the Cross and behind the Icon of the Visitation. The new colors draw the viewer's eye toward the altar and the stations. We would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Council, Facilities Committee, several parish volunteers and staff for their extra effort in the setup and breakdown of the church each week during this project. We would also like to thank the painters for the time and care they took in both painting the church interior and restraining the entrance doors on both the upstairs and downstairs level of the church.



Hunger Banquet

The fifth grade Tuesday Faith Formation session learned about world hunger by participating in a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) "Hunger Banquet". The purpose of the banquet helped to show the imbalance of food supply in the world.

We learned that a large percentage of the world's population did not have enough to eat. We were saddened to learn that people did not eat three meals a day and that rice is the main staple for many people. We also learned, besides the lack of food and clean water, there are people who are illiterate, unemployed, live with poor sanitation and are in poor health. We learned CRS helps people all over the world by giving them the tools they need to farm or to start a business so they can have a better life.

We made a commercial promoting CRS's Operation Rice Bowl for all the children in Faith Formation reminding them of the importance and difference we can make during Lent by learning, praying, fasting and giving. We realized how much God has blessed us and we learned we must continue Jesus' mission to serve His poor. - Mrs. Macfarland and Mrs. Carr's 5th Graders



40 Hours With Jesus Christ

By
The Rev. William P. Saunders

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life". While the Mass is the central act of worship for Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord. As Pope Pius XII taught, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion.

The number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to a repository for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass and a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. At the end of the devotions, the Mass of Deposition is offered, again concluding with a procession, benediction and final repossession of the Blessed Sacrament.



The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. An appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent.

While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded this devotion; the protection from evil and temptation; reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory; and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth his abundant graces not only for ourselves, but our neighbors, not only for our own personal needs, but for those of our world. Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion.

The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. In 1539, Pope Paul II responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice. While this permission seems to be the earliest official approval of this devotion by the Church, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705.

40 Hours Continued

individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.



A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome.

St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course

40 Hours Continued

of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States.

The Forty Hours Individual Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of parishioners and our parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: This article is reprinted with permission from Father William P. Saunders, Ph.D., Pastor, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, Potomac Falls, Virginia. Minor editorial modifications have been made to accommodate space limitations.

Vacation Bible Camp

The OLVP VBC Flight Crew is preparing to welcome our campers, June 25-29 at "Sky" where all things are possible if you just trust in GOD!!!! Approximately 90 parish children and their friends from ages 3 to 11 have already joined the fun. Sky VBC is grounded in our Catholic faith and will help kids discover God's Word in an unforgettable way! Sky VBC - \$100.00 for a week of fun...forming bonds with your church family...PRICELESS. To register, please contact Michele Olewack at (301) 948-5536 x107.



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Look for more information in our weekly Parish Bulletin or on the Parish website

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in

IMPORTANT EVENTS



CONFIRMATION
Sunday, 06 May 2012
2:00 p.m.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Adult Evening Reception
Friday, 11 May 2012
Kentlands Mansion
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sacred Liturgy, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 12 May 2012
The Rev. Raymond L. Fecteau,
Principal Celebrant
Parishioner reception immediately following, Founders Hall

ASCENSION
Sunday, 20 May 2012
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy

PENTECOST
Sunday, 27 May 2012
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy

OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION PATRONAL FEAST DAY
Sacred Liturgy
Thursday, 31 May 2012
9:15 a.m.

PARISH PICNIC
Sunday, 03 June 2012
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Pavilion



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CORPUS CHRISTI
Sunday, 10 June 2012
9:00 a.m. Procession