



# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center

3989 South Moon Drive  
Venice, FL 34292

[www.olph-retreat.org](http://www.olph-retreat.org)  
(941) 486-0233

Newsletter

February 2022

## Behind the Valentines

A few years ago, some sociologists did a study of American popular songs from 1960 to 2010. They found that more than two-thirds of the songs had to do with love. No surprise there. But as we prepare to celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14, it might be good to ask ourselves, "What really is love, anyway?"

We do well to listen to the saints on this one. After all, the saints are the greatest lovers—the people who love the most. And the saints are rather unanimous in their opinion that love is *willing the good of another*. Love is the selfless desire to do what is best for the beloved. If you actively desire for another person everything that is good, everything that is beautiful, and most of all eternal happiness with God, then you love them. If (Lord forbid) you want them to have everything that is horrible, evil, and miserable, that means you hate them.

Love, in other words, is more than just a feeling. And this makes all the difference in the world. Love may mean not giving the spoiled child what he wants, because what he wants is not truly good for him. Love may mean correcting your priests because it will help us to be better priests. Love may mean putting some distance between yourself and someone for whom you have strong feelings, if that person is already married to someone else.

Each of those scenarios are illustrations of tough love, where the good of the beloved takes priority over what the lover might feel like doing. But is that not the love that Jesus describes and practices: "*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends*"?

If true love seems too difficult to you, you're not alone. Fortunately, at our Baptism God gave us the ability to love Him and other people with His own love. We need to constantly ask Him for more of that gift, and to put into practice the little bit that we have.

In Christ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

*Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV*

Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV



Monthly Day of Prayer resumes this month on February 9 and February 13. Conference topics are the same for both sessions, so select the day that works best for you.

[Click here to register](#)

**Contact Us**  
**(941) 486-0233**

Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV	ext. 3007
Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV	ext. 3008
Denise Riley	ext. 3004

# Butterfly Ball

Saturday, February 19, 2022

Chelsea Center @ St. Thomas More, Sarasota

6:00 to 10:00 pm

Our event is sold out, but let us know if you would like to be on a wait list if we receive a cancellation. Below is the list of our Live Auction items. Interested in bidding? You don't need to be present at the event, just contact Simona Handley for more information:

[Handley@olph-retreat.org](mailto:Handley@olph-retreat.org)



## Live Auction Items

### **Wine Tasting and Appetizers for up to 20 People**

Treat your friends, family, and fellow wine lovers to a private wine tasting for up to 20 people at Total Wine located in Sarasota or Bradenton. Enjoy a lesson on wines and learn about the famed grape varietals during a two-hour session where you will taste up to 8 premium, hand-selected wines and enjoy small bites from Publix catering with a \$150 gift card. Discover hidden treasures from the wine region of your choosing. Region themes include Wines of the Napa Valley, Beautiful blends from France, Sparkling wines and champagnes, and Italian wines from the tip to toe. Fair market value is \$650.

### **Ultimate U.S. Destination Vacation**

Choose from a week's stay in Vail, Williamsburg, Lake Tahoe, or Maui. This package includes a 1 bedroom condominium unit (larger units available for a surcharge) that can accommodate up to 2 adults/2 children at any of these destinations. The winner may select from multiple resorts. This package is valid year-round. Peak season travel dates are subject to availability. Valid until December 31, 2023. Fair market value is \$2,950.

### **Vintner Adventure in Sonoma**

Enjoy 4 glorious days in the beautiful California Sonoma wine district! This package includes 6 consecutive hours of chauffeured luxury sedan service, wine tasting and picnic lunch for 2 at Benziger Family Winery, and a private VIP tour and tasting for 2 at the boutique winery, Imagery Estate. You will spend 3 nights stay at the beautiful Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa, including daily breakfast. The Fairmont's inspiring architecture reveals pools, baths, and treatment areas. It is a true spa, created in the grand European tradition and based on the benefits of the property's thermal mineral springs. Fair market value is \$4,298.

### **Your Choice: Maui or Ireland**

7 nights of accommodations for 6 guests at either the Kahana Villa Resort in Maui, Castlemeyer Resort in Cork, Ireland, or Knightsbrook Resort near Dublin, Ireland. The Kahana Villa Resort offers an oceanview condominium with full kitchen and private lanai, within walking distance of restaurants and shops. The Castlemeyer Resort is a 5-star, 17th century manor house which sits on beautiful grounds adjacent to the ruins of a 800 year old castle. The Knightsbrook Resort is located in the beautiful countryside of Mearth, Ireland, 45 minutes from Dublin. It is a luxury, self-catering 3-bedroom condominium on 186 acres, including an 18-hole championship golf course. Fair market value is \$4,135.

### **8-days/7-nights in a 4-bedroom Lakefront Property in Lake Como, Italy**

Lake Como has been the playground of the rich and famous for centuries. Penthouse Mansarda is picture perfect, with four bedrooms and three bathrooms, sleeping 8 comfortably. There is a private, gated parking space, fully-equipped kitchen, washer and dryer, high-speed internet, and flat-screen TVs. You are only a 30-second walk to the town's main piazza. Everything is within walking distance, so a car isn't necessary, but if you would like to take a scenic drive, your location is within a two-hour from St. Moritz, Switzerland, and Milan, and four hours to Monte Carlo, Monaco, Venice, Florence, and Rome. Valid until December 31, 2023. Fair market value is \$5,375.

**Thank you to our Sponsors and Underwriters!**

**St. William, St. Columbkille, St. Agnes, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Michael the Archangel, St. John the Evangelist, Church of St. Patrick, Incarnation, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Thomas More, St. Joseph, Epiphany Cathedral, SS Peter and Paul the Apostles, Christ the King, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Oblates of the Virgin Mary, St. Raphael, Deacon Scott and Diane Little, Noel and Erica Maun, Mark and Monica Osterhaus, Erik and Camilla Popham, Troy and Joyce Sacco, and several Anonymous Donors**

## Symbolism in the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Let us take a moment to examine the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. There is symbology in nearly every aspect. Mary is central, capturing our eyes and our focus. Then we notice Jesus, as she directs our attention to Him.

The blue of Our Lady's mantle is a shade of "lapis lazuli". It is recognized as precious and used to produce the pigment color "ultramarine". Gold leaf also communicates the precious value of the icon and its message and serves as a reminder of the heavenly realm.

There are some Greek inscriptions in the background. These are abbreviations which stand for, from left to right, Mother of God, Michael the Archangel, Gabriel the Archangel, and Jesus Christ.

The Archangels are present bearing the instruments of Our Lord's passion. Michael is holding a spear, or lance. He additionally carries a sponge and urn of gall. Gabriel bears a Cross and nails. The Infant Jesus' fear and anguish is indicated by the sandal we observe slipping from his foot. Showing His heel is a reference to the promise God makes in Genesis 3:15, "it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel."

If we study the eye lines and the inclination of heads, Mary is looking straight at us and, with her arms, invites us to focus not on her, but on her Son. He is our salvation. Mary's head leans toward Jesus, in reverence of His divinity. Jesus is portrayed as a child, but His face has greater maturity. This is an indication of His dual nature. Mary's mouth is small. This can be viewed as an admonishment to be silent before the presence of God. Mary's head bears a star. She leads us, as the Star of the Sea and Our Morning Star who will lead us to Christ.

The hands of the Icon speak to us. Mary's hands are in contact with Jesus. Her hand between his two hands is a symbol of her will conformed to His. His two hands grasping hers as he faces the dread Cross are an example for us to seek her comfort and protection, which, mysteriously, comes from His own inner strength. We view Jesus' clothing as green and gold. This symbolizes both earth and heaven OR humanity and divinity, another indicative of His duality. Green can also be viewed as Creation, Gold symbolizing Resurrection. And, the Red of His sash is for the Passion. So, there are references to all of His mysteries for us: Incarnation, Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

More than merely a striking picture, the Icon gives us much to recognize and contemplate.



## Welcoming Our Guests

We started the new year hosting several groups including Bishops from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa, as well as several more local groups including our DOV Deacons, Agrupación Católica Universitaria from Miami, St. Francis of Assisi, Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, and DOV's Education Department. In addition, our group of 30-day retreatants started on January 23rd. Although many of our volunteers were not available to assist, we greatly thank those who helped us out!

February continues to look busy so if you are able to assist, please [click here to see our available slots for this month](#).

We also want to welcome back Ramiro! He returned mid-January and we are very excited to see him back and looking great!



## Happy Birthday Volunteers!

Happy Birthday to Philip Wilkins and all volunteers celebrating a birthday in February!

Do you celebrate a February birthday and we missed it? Happy Birthday! Please send an email to [handley@olph-retreat.org](mailto:handley@olph-retreat.org) with your birthday month and day so we can put it in our database!

# Upcoming Events



---

## Monthly Day of Prayer

The Monthly Day of Prayer resumes in February. The next Wednesday session is on February 9th and the Sunday session is on February 13th. The day begins at 9:30 am with continental breakfast and includes two conferences, lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, private meditation and prayer. The day concludes with Mass, ending at 3:15 pm. The cost is \$40.00. Note: the conference topics are the same for the Sunday and Wednesday sessions in each respective month, so please choose the day that is compatible with your schedule.

To register: [www.olph-retreat.org/monthly-day-of-prayer](http://www.olph-retreat.org/monthly-day-of-prayer)

*Note: The March session will be on March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) instead of the second Wednesday.*

---

## Couples Retreat

**Feb. 25-27, 2022**

This weekend retreat will be led by Deacon Scott Little. Join us for a chance to open our hearts to the grace of the marriage vocation. Couples are invited to spend some time with each other to explore God's grace. What has our marriage meant to us? What has He taught and what is left for us to learn? Scripture, prayer, papal teaching, fellowship, and the Eucharist will help us grow closer to our Lord and each other. The weekend event begins on Friday afternoon and concludes on Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$450, which includes private room, meals, cleaning, and FL tax.

To register: <https://olph-retreat.org/couples-retreat>

---

## Matt Talbot Retreat

**Mar. 18-20, 2022**

A Matt Talbot retreat is for people of all faiths and is an opportunity for recovering alcoholics to enhance their spirituality and sober way of life. The people who attend these retreats are recovering alcoholics that attend the 12-step program through AA. Deacon Thomas Evrard, the Retreat Leader, has been a Retreat Director for 15 years especially with 12-Step Groups and is member of a Matt Talbot Group #54 since 1981. He is trained in spiritual matters and will give conferences on various topics several times during the weekend, bringing valuable insights into the spiritual element of the disease of alcoholism. The Matt Talbot retreat is private and everything is confidential. The cost is \$325 for a private room / \$225 for a shared room and includes all meals, cleaning, and FL tax.

To register: [olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration](http://olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration)

---

## Triduum Retreat

**Apr. 14-17, 2022**

OLPH's annual Triduum Retreat is scheduled for April 14-17, 2022. It begins with supper on Holy Thursday and concludes after sunrise Liturgy and breakfast on Easter Sunday. There will be five conferences, led by both Fr. Mark Yavaronne, OMV and Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV, throughout the weekend. The cost is \$450 for a private room and \$275 for a shared room, inclusive of FL state tax and fees. A draft schedule is provided on our website's [Schedule of Events](#) page.

To register: [olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration](http://olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration)