



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center

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Newsletter

May 2022

See no Evil, Hear no Evil, Speak no Evil . . . Have no Fun?

Perhaps the idea of being completely free from sin is not very attractive to us. Maybe we feel that a life completely without sin would be like food without spice—that somehow it would not be interesting enough.

Pope Benedict XVI once put it this way: “We have a lurking suspicion that a person who does not sin must really be basically boring and that something is missing from his life . . . In a word, we think that evil is basically good, we think that we need it, at least a little, in order to experience the fullness of being. . . . We think that a little bargaining with evil, keeping for oneself a little freedom against God, is basically a good thing, perhaps even necessary.”

In this month of May, which is traditionally dedicated to Mary, we do well to reflect on how Mary proves this notion to be false. In the same address, Pope Benedict went on to explain the truth of the matter: “The person who abandons himself totally in God’s hands does not become God’s puppet, a boring “yes man”; he does not lose his freedom. Only the person who entrusts himself totally to God finds true freedom. . . . The person who turns to God does not become smaller but greater, for through God and with God he becomes great, he becomes divine, he becomes truly himself.”

The pope was reminding us that the closer a person is to God, the closer he is to people, and the more truly happy he becomes. We see this in Mary when she sings her *Magnificat* upon arriving to serve her cousin Elizabeth. The fact that Mary is totally with God is the reason why she is so close to other people, including us.

Mary was completely free—the only completely free human person who ever lived. That is why she was able to give of herself so freely and became first of all the human persons in Heaven.

No need, then, for even a little sin in our lives. If we learn that from Mary during this month of May, we have learned well.

In Christ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV

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Last Monthly Day of Prayer for the Season

The last Monthly Day of Prayer sessions for the season are on May 8th and May 11th (*same conference topics both days*). We will resume in September.

[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

Building Updates

Villa Refresh

You may recall that OLPH earmarked some of the proceeds from the Butterfly Ball to update Villas I, II, and III. In April, our volunteers, John Meyer and Michael Day, working alongside OLPH's Chuck Hammerle, started that effort in Villa I. They completed painting each of the four villa bedrooms and small chapel, as well as replaced the carpet with new luxury vinyl, matching the flooring that was installed in Villa IV last August. In addition, the old blinds and ceiling fans were replaced. How fresh the villa looks!

The next villa the team will be working on is Villa II. Villa II, like Villa I, has four private bedrooms. Work will commence on this villa in May. The last villa we will "refresh" is Villa III. This villa is larger, with eight private bedrooms. A date has not been set yet for this villa; however, we anticipate it to occur this summer. If you are interested in helping the team with Villa III, please send an email to Denise Riley at riley@olph-retreat.org.

Chapel Roof Replacement

In April, the Diocese commenced an infrastructure project to replace the Chapel's roof. Tear down of the previous roof started on April 18th. It is anticipated to be a 6-8 week project. OLPH has worked with the contractors to allow for the celebration of daily weekday Mass without too much of an interruption. The new roof color will be red and the material will be metal. A sample of the roof tile is viewable in the OLPH courtyard. Please see the article on the next page to learn more about St. Joseph's Chapel.

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

On Tuesday April 19, 2022, OLPH hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch for our hard-working and dedicated volunteers. Approximately 36 volunteers joined us for a feast of homemade Belgium waffles, chicken and biscuits, ham, fresh fruit, mimosas, breakfast pastries, and dessert.

A "How Well Do You Know OLPH?" trivia questionnaire was distributed and we had five winners. Congratulations to Linda Falco, Joan Gillis, Anne Morris, Gerry Paulausky, and Rosa Raggolino for getting 7 or more questions correct. They each won a potted spring plant.

Interested in completing the trivia questionnaire? [Click here](#)



Interested in a Private Retreat?

OLPH offers 1, 3, 5, and 8-day private retreats.

[Click here to view the schedule](#)



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
To You

Happy Birthday Volunteers!

We missed Lee Henks' birthday in April... so a very Happy belated Birthday!

Happy Birthday to all volunteers celebrating a birthday in May!

We don't have any May birthdays recorded in our database... but there must be some! Please send an email to handley@olph-retreat.org with your birthday month and day so we can put it in our database!

St. Joseph Chapel

St. Joseph Chapel stands out like a precious jewel on the shores of OLPH's Lake of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a simple, octagon-shaped building of over 3,000 square feet and seats 150 persons. Construction began in early 1999 and the first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve 1999. Funding was provided by several parishes in the Diocese, a variety of religious organizations, and numerous private patrons.

The chapel's roof was originally adorned with a bell. It was later determined that the weight of the bell adversely impacted the roof and structure of the chapel, and it was removed in November 2004. Today, it stands as the Bell Tower in front of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine, on the path to the chapel. The bells continue to ring from sunrise to sunset.



Six multi-colored stain glass windows depict a mini-history of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The windows are the work of Casola Stained Glass Studio, located in Fort Myers. The history of the icon image is very interesting and involves visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, theft, and war. Our six windows depict a summary of the story, highlighted below. To read the whole story, [click here](#).



Window 1 depicts the theft of the icon from a church on the island of Crete in 1495 to one's home in Rome.

Window 2 depicts Mary appearing to a child, telling her to place the icon in a specific location in Rome, which was between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. In 1499, the icon was relocated to the Church of St. Matthew the Apostle, a very small church measuring 75 feet x 35 feet which occupied the requested location.

Window 3 depicts Brother Orsini, an Augustinian monk, explaining the icon to a young altar boy, Michael Marchi, who was later to become a priest in the Redemptorist order. At this time, the icon was under the care of the Augustinian monks at their monastery chapel of Santa Maria in Posterula, having been moved to this location when the Church of St. Matthew the Apostle was levelled to the ground by Napoleon's forces during the French occupation of Rome in 1798.

Window 4 depicts Pope Pius IX (Pio Nono) presenting the icon to the Redemptorist Order, represented by Fr. Michael Marchi in this window. The Pope was convinced that it was God's will that the icon again be given public veneration in the location specified by the Blessed Virgin, stating "Make her known throughout the world!"

Window 5 depicts the solemn procession and formal enthronement of the icon on April 26, 1866. It was placed over the main altar of the Redemptorist Church of St. Alphonsus di Liguori in Rome. St. Alphonsus was erected on the same parcel of land where the Church of St. Matthew the Apostle once stood.

Window 6 depicts a Redemptorist with arms extended to embrace the globe, symbolizing the Redemptorists' special mandate to "make her known throughout the world" under the title Our Mother (or Our Lady) of Perpetual Help.





Upcoming Events

Monthly Day of Prayer

The final two Monthly Day of Prayer sessions for the season will be offered on the following dates:

May 8th (Mother's Day)

May 11th

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 each session, so please choose the day that is compatible with your schedule.

[Click here to register](#)

Can You See Me?

May 13-15, 2022

This weekend retreat provides the opportunity to encounter the Love of our Lord in his sacrifice, meditate on the love of the Father and Son, and increase a personal relationship with the Eucharist. Through this retreat, you will:

- know the greatest love story of humanity;
- meet him in the mystery of the Eucharist and the real presence of the Lord in the Holy communion; and
- obtain a better understanding of the gift of Love.

The cost is \$325 for a private room, \$225 for a shared room, and \$125 for commuters (including fees and FL tax).

Ignatian Preached Retreat

May 20-23, 2022

This silent retreat will introduce you to the great themes of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in a group setting. The schedule includes conferences each day, daily Mass, and an opportunity to meet at least once with the priest spiritual director for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and/or spiritual direction. Conference topics center on Ignatian spirituality, prayer, and discernment. A private room and all meals are provided. The cost is \$450, which includes private room, meals, cleaning, and FL tax.

To register for a Group Retreat or view our schedule, please go to:

www.olph-retreat.org/schedule-of-events



Interested in Hosting a Day Retreat for Your Group?

OLPH offers conference facilities, seated dining, and use of our chapel for up to 125 individuals for a single-day retreat that can be led by your parish priest or OLPH's Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV or Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV.

A variety of topics are offered, as well as a choice of breakfast and lunch meal options. The minimum number of participants is 15 and prices start at \$40 pp.

We are now taking bookings for the Fall and Winter of 2022/2023.

To learn more, [click here](#).