Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

Harrington Park, New Jersey www.olvhp.org

WELCOME

To the Parish Family of OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak

Pastor

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Susan Evanella Denise Coulter Religious Education

Selena Piazza
Lesa RossmannElizabeth Gulfo
Martin Coyne IIMichael Flynn
Meagan Mullany
Parish TrusteesJr. High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq. Jon Fischer CFA
President Parish Council Chairman Finance Committee

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 6:00pmConfessions followed by Devotions & Mass First Saturday: 8:00am Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary First Saturday: 12:00pm Mass for Souls in Purgatory

Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday Infant of Prague: 25th of the month St. Peregrine: First Friday of the Month

Rosary: Recited M - Sat after 8:00am & 12:00Noon Mass

OLV Adoration Schedule

- * 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from after the 12 noon Mass till 3PM
- * Every Thursday Holy hour 7-8PM
- * Every Friday Adoration 12:30PM til 3PM
- * First Friday Adoration 12:30PM (after 12Noon Mass), 6PM confessions,6:30PM devotions, concludes with 7PM Mass
- * First Saturday Adoration 12:30PM till 1PM



SUNDAY, November 10, 2019 A.D.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am -7:50am.

First Friday at 6:30pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm –3:40pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.

Latin Mass every Sunday 8:15AM Spanish Mass every Sunday 1PM



Address: Phone: Email: OLV Rectory 81 Lynn St. (Mailing) 201-768-1706 olvrectory.hp@gmail.com Religious Education 155 Parkway 201-768-1400 olvhpccd@gmail.com OLV Convent 145 Parkway 201-768-1705

OLV Church physical address: 150 Harriot Ave.

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Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Something amazing I saw this past weekend. At some Masses I celebrated I made an announcement how it saddens me to see how people leave the Church right after receiving Holy Communion. Jesus does not even yet manage to enter inside and so many are leaving. What's the rush I thought? Maybe Herod is chasing again? So after the announcement last weekend it was so beautiful how the ENTIRE CONGREGATION remained and prayed, you could sense the spirit of prayer, KUDOS to those who are patient, who remain. I know what it means to be last, it means others take first the elevator, cars, etc. Contrary to what the world is teaching today ... don't we want to teach our kids by our own example... The Gospel says: LAST SHALL BE FIRST, and the FIRST WILL BE LAST.

Last Sunday and Monday our CCD kids had a saints fair or saints mania. It was so lively to see so much "good mess" left behind after all their activities.

At 10:45AM Family Mass we have every weekend two little girls, **Ali** and **Adi**, together with their father remain and clean the entire church after Mass, taking papers, bulletins, bottles, napkins, etc. They are last to leave the Church and yet LAST SHALL BE FIRST.

Our **Knights of Columbus** went to feed the poor at St. John's in Newark ... whatever you did for the least of my brethren, you did it for me says Christ.

Also, last weekend we celebrated a **Memorial Mass** for all who died this past year. It was great to be together with those who are grieving. May the souls of your loved ones *REST IN PEACE*. I thank in a special way our parishioners and confirmation student, who stayed, prepared, and stayed behind to help with that event.

This weekend we welcome the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** who will have their Bake Sale. One of the great activities of the Catholic Daughters is a **\$1,000 scholarship** they give to a student every year. You can ask them this weekend how to get one. Its very simple.

Thank you for all the **jackets**, **sweaters**, **etc.** - as always so generous. God bless,

Let us not forget this month to offer little sacrifices for SOULS in Purgatory.

CCD Corner

CCD classes took a break from the usual this past week! Students in K-4 participated in activities in the gym related to 6 saints. They did projects representing St, Catherine Laboure, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Patrick, St. Nicholas, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St Kateri Tekakwitha. Check out the bulletin board in the church lobby for pictures. Students in grades 5-8 rotated through the classrooms and got to hear presentations by the teachers on various saints. Many thanks to all of those who helped preparing the projects and assisting the students, especially to Mrs. Coulter for coordinating the projects. Thank you to all our dedicated teachers who did a wonderful job giving a brief look into the lives of some our many saints. The lives of the saints inspire us to lives of holiness.

Classes resume next Sunday November 17th and Monday November 18th. Confirmation class meets Sunday November 17th at 9:30 in the lower church (Father Bryan Hall).

Help THE SOULS in PURGATORY??

It is very possible that some of our own nearest and dearest ones are still suffering the excruciating pains of Purgatory and are calling to us for help and relief. There is no hunger, no thirst, no poverty, no need, no pain, no suffering to compare with what the souls in Purgatory endure. How YOU can help these souls: 1. Have Masses offered for them. 2. Make the Stations of the Cross. 3. Recite the Rosary. 4. Offer up all your pain and sufferings for the relief of Souls.

Why are Masses offered for the dead?

The Mass is the central act of Christian worship. In it, the faithful gather with Christ in His reenactment of His offering of Himself unto death in total love to His Father in Heaven. No other work is richer in satisfaction than this. It is, therefore, fittingly offered for the dead. Further, as the central act of the Christian community, all the members of the family are represented and remembered – those in Heaven, those on Earth, and those in Purgatory. The communion of charity among all demands that none be left out.

Graves

This month is a traditional time for visiting the graves of loved ones (as is the anniversary of death). Rooted in ancient tradition, St. Odilo of Cluny established a memorial of all the faithful departed in 988 AD. It was accepted in Rome in the 13th Century, where it spread from the Cluniac monasteries. St. Augustine reminds us: "If we had no care for the dead, we would not be in the habit of praying for them." The theological basis of this feast is the acknowledgment of human frailty. Since few people achieve perfection in this life, but, rather, go to the grave still scarred with traces of sinfulness, some period of purification seems necessary before a soul comes face-to-face with God. Please remember to pray for the souls of the dead. To bury the dead is a corporal work of mercy, to pray for the dead is the spiritual work of mercy.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine

O most gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of Thy departed servants. Be not severe in Thy judgments, but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And do Thou, O Merciful Saviour, send Thy holy angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant unto the souls of Thy departed servants full remission of all their sins, that through the help of our pious supplications they may obtain that pardon they have always desired, Thou who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

- V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
- R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.
- V. May they rest in peace. Amen.
- R. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

God is more pleased by one work, however small, done secretly, without desire that it be known, than a thousand done with desire that men know of them. The person who works for God with purest love not only cares nothing about whether men see him, but does not even seek that God Himself know of them. Such a person would not cease to render God the same services, with the same joy and purity of love, even if God were never to know of them. - **St John of the Cross**

THANKSGIVING FOOD & TURKEY DRIVE

OLV will be having a month-long canned food/imperishable food drive to help area food banks and help the less fortunate. We will also be hosting a one day frozen Turkey Drive on Sunday, November 24th. Frozen turkeys must be delivered here to OLV Church by 12:30PM on the 24th.

OLV Latin Mass Altar Server Training

OLV Latin Mass Society will be scheduling training sessions for any male (middle-school age through adult) who wants to learn how to serve our traditional Latin Mass. The training starts in November and take place in the Fr. Bryan Hall. It will conducted by experienced Latin Mass servers of our parish. Please leave your contact information at the rectory.

OLV NEEDLERS Every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the lower church .

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS All men over 18 are invited to join the OLV Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. For more information, please contact Mike Hellrigel 201-784-2201.

FAMILY PROMISE OF BERGEN COUNTY The program that provides assistance to working families with children who are temporarily experiencing homelessness needs volunteers -- particularly overnight hosts (8:30PM -6AM) or adults with school-aged children who would host 7-8:30PM. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will next host for a week in November. Please consider joining Sr. Elizabeth and other HP residents in staffing this remarkable program. Contact Paul Schackford at pschackford@gmail.com or 201-768

CLOTHING BINS Much needed items: clothing, small appliances, shoes, sheets/towels, stuffed animals, knickknacks, novels and children's books.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE-CHURCHES OF HARRINGTON PARK

The Churches of Harrington Park will gather together for a Thanksgiving worship service on Tuesday evening, November 26, at 7:30PM. The service will be at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 31 Lynn St. It's our privilege to get together for the original purpose of Thanksgiving: to give thanks for God's many blessings! Representatives of each church will take part in leading the service.

A choir and instrumental ensemble of the combined churches will help us worship that evening, as they perform a spirited version of Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee. If you sing or play an instrument, and would like to participate in the choir/instrumental ensemble, we invite you to be involved. Rehearsals will be held for vocalists on Monday, November 11 and Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30PM and Saturday, November 16 at 4PM. Practice will be at The Community Church in Harrington Park. Instrumental rehearsals will be on Monday, November 18 and Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30. There will be one rehearsal for EVERYONE on Saturday, November 23 at 4PM. These rehearsals are also at the Community Church in Harrington Park. Come for as many of the rehearsals pertaining to you as you can. For an idea of what the music sounds like by listening to: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=vUUPCaGSVwk&feature=youtu.be.

Calling All Senior Citizens - Immaculate Heart Academy Annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving dinner - Nov. 26, 5-7PM in the IHA cafeteria. Free Thanksgiving dinner, raffle, entertainment. RSVP to IHA 201-445-6800 x167 or sshutrop@ihanj.com. You do NOT need a call back to be confirmed.

Third Saturday Mass - All are welcome to Church of St. Mary in Closter for the *Third Saturday Mass* on Saturday, November 16, at 12:00PM. Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of not only those individuals directly affected with the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, but also for anyone involved in the life of the alcoholic or drug addict. A support group, Meeting of Hope will follow the Mass. For information please call 201-768-7565.

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 11 – St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

8:00 All Souls

12:00 Warren Lawten R/b the Quinn Family

Tuesday, November 12 – St. Josaphat, bishop and martyr

R/b Jim and Caroline Connolly 8:00 Anne Raven 12:00 Mary Lou Gorab R/b Mary McGrath

Wednesday, November 13 - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Italy - Nun 8:00 George Lyddon R/b Stephen and Robin Hartman

12:00 John O'Neill R/b Peggy O'Brien

Thursday, November 14 – St. Sidonius of Ireland - Abbot

8:00 Anne and Bill Margettes R/b Lorraine Petrone 12:00 Michael Giotta R/b Ann Giotta

Friday, Nov. 15-St. Albert the Great, Germany-bishop-doctor

8:00 Dorothy Millett R/b Joe and Judy Verga 12:00 Lorenz Ganzleben R/b Monika Senicar

Saturday, November 16-St. Margaret of Hungary, Queen of Scotland; St. Gertrude-Patroness of the West Indies

8:00 Linda Melillo R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey R/b Rae Rinaldi 12:00 Geralyn Voorhes 4:00 Mario Gobbetti R/b Lorraine Gobbetti 5:00 Pat Dinnell R/b Tom Desmond

Sunday, November 17-St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary-Nun

7:30 Marion McPolin R/b Kristen and Scott Dinnell 8:15 Michael and Helen Dorney R/b Cathy Ryan 9:30 Dorothy Millett R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico 10:45 Joseph DeSpezio R/b Sally Moller 12:00 Gino Zocco R/b Mike Zocco

1:00 People of the parish

6:00 Deacon Richard Hodges R/b John Walsh

R/b Bob and Dolores Cavagnet 7:00 Antoinette Dougherty

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of John D. Kaberle Jr., r/b Tom and Ria Ragusa.

The BI Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the intentions of Father Wojciech Jaskowiak, r/b Cathy Ryan.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for the intentions of Diane Padala, r/b Cathy Ryan.

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Patricia Rube, r/b Tom and Ria Ragusa.

CONFESSION/RECONCILATION

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacogue that individuals should go to confession at a minimum once a month. This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11AM to Noon and 3-3:40PM; every weekday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Relevant Radio 1430AM

For a clear signal download the free Relevant Radio app on your smartphone, ipad, computer and all those other devices! You can listen in your car without static on Bluetooth. Relevant Radio talk radio for Catholic life.

"what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?"

Mathew 16:26

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Captain Shawn Linn
Lieutenant Gigi McElroy
Colonel John McLaughlin
Captain John G. Miele

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn OS2 Daniel T. LoVecchio

US Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Shanna Bennett Corporal Matthew Brady 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo Lance Corporal Thomas Iafrate Corporal Joseph Levine

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal Ensign Jon Clemente Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger OS2 Daniel T. I oVecchio

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Please *Pray* in the name of *JESUS*, the Healer, that the *sick* of the *Parish* may be restored to health and all those who assist and care for the sick will be given the *strength* to continue *God's Will*: baby Cordelia, aby Emmet Fischer, Richard Bolton, Dominic Carini, Carolanne Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Kevin Columbo, Anthony Cortez, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Isabelle DeLeonibus, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Carl Falasca, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Mary Foley, Tom Giuliano, Peter Kellar, Milan Krupa, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, John Pal, Joyanna Peros, John Peterson Jr, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, Veronica Romanchuk, Phylis Rooney, Mike Tobia, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Fiona, Jennifer, Joann, Lisa, Lucas, Lynn, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Sean, Sharon.

Did you know?

There is a very special Archdiocese in these United States of America that does not have any geographical boundaries? It has its own Archbishop based in Washington, DC, but he is not the Bishop of that city. The Archbishop that I speak of is the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, of the Archdiocese of Military Services, or AMS. His diocese is the farthest-ranging of all American dioceses, perhaps of all dioceses in the world. Archbishop Broglio is in charge of all the Catholic American servicemen worldwide, from the elite military academies to the lowest privates stationed in the most isolated and dangerous places where soldiers, Marines, sailors, and Coast Guardsmen go. Besides these duties, he oversees the religious needs of those Catholics in U. S. military hospitals both at home and abroad.

** ** ** **

A little humor

here was an elderly man at home, upstairs, dying in bed. He smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies baking. He wanted one last cookie before he died. He fell out of bed, crawled to the landing, rolled down the stairs and crawled into the kitchen where his wife was busily baking cookies.

With his last remaining strength he crawled to the table and was just barely able to lift his withered arm to the cookie sheet. As he grasped a warm, moist chocolate chip cookie, his favorite kind, his wife suddenly whacked his hand with a spatula.

Gasping for breath, he asked her, "Why did you do that?"
"Those are for the funeral."

Parents speak about the loss of their children

St. Zélie and St. Louis Martin had lost four of their nine children, who had died either in infancy or early childhood. Their ninth child was St. Thérèse of Lisieux. When Mme. Guérin (sister in law of St. Zelie Martin) had just given birth to a son who died immediately, to console the sorrowing mother, Zélie wrote the following words:

"I am deeply grieved at the misfortune that has just struck you. Truly, you are sorely tried! It is one of your first troubles, my poor, dear sister. May our good Lord grant you resignation to His holy will. Your dear little child is with Him. He sees you, he loves you, and you will find him again one day. That is the great comfort I felt and still feel." "When I closed the eyes of my [four] dear children and buried them, I felt the sorrow indeed, but it has always been resigned sorrow. I did not regret the pain and cares I had borne for them. Several people said to me, 'It would have been better if you had never had them,' but I could not endure this sort of language. I did not think that the sufferings and anxieties could be weighed in the same scale with the eternal happiness of my children. Then they were not lost forever; life is short and full of miseries, and we shall find them again up yonder. "It was especially at the death of the first that I was most vividly aware of the happiness of having a child in Heaven. For God showed me in a sensible manner that He accepted my sacrifice. Through my first little angel, I obtained a very extraordinary grace." You see, dear sister, it is a great advantage to have little angels in Heaven, but it is not less painful to nature to lose them. These are the great sorrows of our life."

Sts. Zelie and Louis Martin pray for us.

CATHOLIC woman on a banknote!

The great author of *The Life of Saint Catherine of Siena*, Sigrid Undset, is the only Catholic to have been depicted on a Norwegian banknote.

Sigrid was a great Norwegian novelist. She converted from agnosticism (her parents were atheist intellectuals, although her mother, with no faith, showed up regularly on Sundays at Lutheran services) to Catholic Christianity. She was baptized Catholic in 1924 at the age of forty-two. Her novels reflect the reality of life that she also lived. Undset's works were unapologetically apologetic in the Catholicity of their themes. In 1934 she wrote The Saga of Saints. Acclaimed as she was, especially after receiving the Nobel prize, Sigrid suffered much criticism in a very secular Norway for embracing the Catholic Faith. She was even lampooned in the press as "Lady Catholic." But that didn't bother her. She had a very strong character, which is evident not only in her writings but also in her political activities. For one thing, her detestation of Communism was so strong that she donated her Laureate prize money to the cause of Finnish children who suffered immensely, or were orphaned, during that nation's resistance against Stalin's Russian invasion and occupation in 1939. She also wrote virulent attacks against Nazism and so irritated the Nazis that she was advised to get out of Norway before it was too late. When German troops took over her village they smashed her writing desk to splinters. Feminists didn't like Madame Undset either. She had been inclined to support some of their issues, but never their depreciation of motherhood. They were especially incensed against her when she championed virtuous motherhood as the highest dignity a woman could achieve outside of religious life. She wrote an autobiography, which, in English translation, was titled The Longest Years. Madame Undset was born in 1882 and she died in 1949. In her own life Sigrid eventually did get a divorce in 1919 from her lover the painter, whom she had married in 1912 while they were in Belgium. That marriage was dissolved before her baptism because Svarstad had a wife who was still living at the time. Sigrid Undset knew suffering and tragedy. She lived through two World Wars, and two invasions of her country - first the Communist Russians and then the Germans. She fled to America from the Nazis in 1940 and then returned to her beloved Lillehammer, Norway, after the liberation in 1945. Living in Brooklyn Heights, New York, our author was very active in St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League and wrote several articles for its bulletin. Undset was traumatized by the wars, which had a huge influence on her writing, but it also gave her immense compassion for all who suffered, as well as an appreciation for the value of the Cross.

Kidz Korner Answers

- 1. St. Thomas Moore. 2. St. Ann. 3. St. Monica.
- 4. Mary, as the Immaculate Conception. 5. St. Matthew.

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

Our Lord dictated the following prayer to St. Gertrude the Great to release 1,000 Souls from Purgatory each time it is said.

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

St. Gertrude's life was the mystic life of the Cloister – a Benedictine nun. She meditated on the Passion of Christ, which many times brought a flood of tears to her eyes. She did many penances and Our Lord appeared to her many times. She had a tender love for the Blessed Virgin and was very devoted to the suffering souls in Purgatory. She died in 1334. Her feast day is November 16th.

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first United States citizen to be canonized. Her deep trust in the loving care of her God gave her the strength to be a valiant woman doing the work of Christ.

Refused admission to the religious order which had educated her to be a teacher, she began charitable work at the House of Providence Orphanage in Cadogno, Italy. In September 1877, she made her vows there and took the religious habit.

When the bishop closed the orphanage in 1880, he named Frances prioress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Seven young women from the orphanage joined her.

Since her early childhood in Italy, Frances had wanted to be a missionary in China but, at the urging of Pope Leo XIII, Frances went west instead of east. She traveled with six sisters to New York City to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants living there.

She found disappointment and difficulties with every step. When she arrived in New York, the house intended to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available. The archbishop advised her to return to Italy. But Frances, truly a valiant woman, departed from the archbishop's residence all the more determined to establish that orphanage. And she did.

In 35 years, Frances Xavier Cabrini founded 67 institutions dedicated to caring for the poor, the abandoned, the uneducated and the sick. Seeing great need among Italian immigrants who were losing their faith, she organized schools and adult education classes.

As a child, she was always frightened of water, unable to overcome her fear of drowning. Yet, despite this fear, she traveled across the Atlantic Ocean more than 30 times. She died of malaria in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago.

Her feast day is November 13th.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Healing the pain of abortion ... Are you suffering from an abortion experience? Do you have feelings of guilt and anxiety? Do you suffer from depression? There is Hope! Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: rachelsvineyard.org. For more information contact the Respect Life Office 973-497-4350.

Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance? should **never** feel that abortion is her only option.

Personal & confidential assistance is available at the following:
Archdiocesan Respect Life Office: 973-497-4350
Gateway Pregnancy Center: Phone: 908-353-0604
Catholic Community Services: 201-246-7379
Birthright: 800-550-4900 Lifecall: 800-662-2678

A Word from the Desert

"A brother came to see Abba Macarius the Egyptian, and said to him, 'Abba, give me a word, that I may be saved.' So the old man said, 'Go to the cemetery and insult the dead.' The brother went there, insulted them and threw stones at them; then he returned and told the old man about it. The latter said to him, 'Didn't they say anything to you?' He replied, 'No.' The old man said, 'Go back tomorrow and praise them.' So the brother went away and praised them, calling them 'Apostles, saints and righteous men.' He returned to the old man and said to him, 'I have complimented them.' And the old man said to him, 'Did they not answer you?' The brother said no. The old man said to him, 'You know how you insulted them and they did not reply, and how you praised them and they did not speak; so you too if you wish to be saved must do the same and become a dead man. Like the dead, take no account of either the scorn of men or their praises, and you can be saved." Taken from: Macarius 23 in The Sayings of the Desert Fathers, The Alphabetical Collection, trans. Benedict Ward (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1984), 132.

HUNGRY SOULS

There are roughly three variants of the visible forms or figures of appearing poor souls: either they come in the figures of the persons they were in life, with their typical clothes; amid flames; or again, as deformed humans with remarkable symbolic features that represent their sins and/or punishments - sometimes even as humanized animals or animalized humans. Ghosts from Purgatory are as a rule recognizable by their eyes, and mouth, wrote the 20th century seer Eugenie von der Leyen. "You never see such eyes in men ... they demonstrate, or give to understand, misery. The mouth ... this bitterness is found in no [living] human."

The saintly Bavarian mystic, Sr. Maria Anna Lindmayr (1657-1726), regularly saw the poor souls in a manner that characterized the spiritual or moral state of their souls. Their features symbolized their vices as well as the kind of punishment they suffered:

I have always been given to understand that: how you sin, so you must do penance ... [Some] appeared to me very hungry, emaciated in an indescribable form. These implored me to help them by fasting severely on water and bread, to correct what was wanting in them during their lifetime by their eating and drinking well and abundantly. Others again made known by their behavior their quick-temperedness and impatience and they implored me to help them by acts of patience and meekness. Such souls ... were shown to me, their mouth locked with a nail.

Some souls do not show the fire they are in, at least not initially, but appear as they had been in life. A deceased friend of Maria Anna walked before her on the street when she went to church, early in the morning; this happened so naturally that the seer "did not give it a thought, otherwise I would have been frightened," and only when she was in the church did she realize what she had seen (by then the apparition had vanished). In a subsequent apparition, although no trace of burning or flames had been visible when it had manifested itself as the woman on her way to church, this same soul nonetheless demonstrated that it was burning by touching the foot of the seer "with a glowing finger."

The visible appearance of the soul of the woman who came to Eugenie von der Leyen changed in response to the question of the seer: "Do you suffer so much?"

"Look at me!" was the soul's reply. Then she was as if flooded with fire.

KIDZ KORNER

- 1. Who is the patron saint of Lawyers?
- 2. Who is the patron Saint of Housewives?
- 3. Who is the patron Saint of Mothers?
- 4. Who is the patron Saint of the United States?
- 5. Who is the patron Saint of Accountants?

Answers on page 4