

TIME FOR ORDINARY!

Time for ordinary!! Last week, I wrote to you about **"time for a change"** the longest-ever column I wrote in my nearly nine years at OLHOC (out of a total of about 450 columns from mid-September 2010 till now). Yes, there is a time for change and a time for stability, in the same way there is a time for happiness and a time for sorrow. God is in charge, we are not! Some of you have told me that they found it difficult to read the written text in the weekly bulletin, as it was typed with the smallest possible font to fit into one single, full page. And the only excuse I can make for such a long column is that I did not have time to make it shorter. I am in good company. The great writer Blaise Pascal (philosopher and mathematician who lived in the 17th century) famous for his book "LesPensees" ("Thoughts" written in form of short letters), once apologized for having written a very long letter, "I did write such a long letter because I did not have the time to write a shorter one..."

This week, I have chosen to write to you about **"time for ordinary"**. Yes, there is a time for "ordinary" and a time for "extraordinary". There is a time for continuing doing things in a simple and kind-of-routine way. There is also a time to do things in an extraordinary way that goes much beyond the simple way to approaching life in a natural way. You may say: so what? Since there is a time for everything and it is always because we are totally in the hands of God! Or you may ask, what is wrong with the "little way" promoted so powerfully by Little Flower (St Therese of the Holy Child Jesus, better known as St Therese of Lisieux, one of the greatest saints of the 19th century, and still much beloved by many Catholic families throughout the United States)? Or does that explain Little Flower's constant desire to do "ordinary" things with an "extraordinary" love? Or is it a key to understanding "The Way" promoted by St Jose Maria Escriva, the founder of **Opus Dei** in the 20th century, where a central theme is that we can all become saints while doing ordinary jobs in the non-religious, secular world, as opposed to the traditional saints who were mostly in religious orders (whether monks or nuns), a revolutionary thinking for Catholics? Or is it what it is all about St Teresa of Calcutta who wrote "The Simple Path" enabling us to move forward from **Silence** to Prayer to Faith to Love to Service to **Peace**?

There is also another way to look at **ordinary time vs. extraordinary time!** I am referring to the **four main seasons of the Liturgical year**, which in many ways are similar to the four secular seasons: Advent (Fall), Christmas (Winter), Lent (beginning of Spring) and Easter (the summit of all: full Spring, anticipating and ending with Pentecost Sunday, which could be seen as the Fire of Summer through the Holy Spirit).

There is also **"ordinary time"**, which could be seen as a Fifth Season, though it is not continuous, as it is divided into two mini-seasons, as it first fills in the time between the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of the Lenten Season (Ash Wednesday), and then all the time between the Solemnity of **Pentecost Sunday** (end of the 50 days of the Easter Season) and the last and 34th week of Ordinary Time (final week of the Liturgical Year always beginning with Sunday celebrating the Solemnity of **Christ the King**).

When we entered this second mini-season on the Sunday after Pentecost, I mentioned at the first daily Mass that we as priests will from now on will wear essentially green vestments until the Solemnity of Christ the King (this year, falling on November 24)! However, I also mentioned that the first two Sundays after Pentecost have been traditionally two Solemnities, which we have just celebrated: **The most Holy Trinity** and **Corpus Christi** (last Sunday, with the traditional outdoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament in honor of that Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ). The Priest wears "white" vestments on any "Solemnity".

So, you may be surprised (as I was too) that we just are having **four Solemnities within this current 12th week of ordinary time!!!** Am I serious? Just look at the Monthly Liturgical Calendar we gave to each one of you last December. Here are the four Solemnities in less than 7 days of Ordinary Time: Corpus Christi (last Sunday), The Nativity of St John the Baptist (the following day, Monday as always June 24, seen traditionally as the longest day of the year), The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (this Friday June 28 - always the Friday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost)

and the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul Apostles (always on June 29, and falling this Saturday). I have said many times that there is nothing "ordinary" about "Ordinary Time". The word "ordinary" comes from the Latin word "ordo", which simply means "order". "Ordinary Time" in our Annual Liturgical Cycle is simply the 34 weeks that occur every year outside of the four Liturgical Seasons: Advent (four weeks before Christmas Day), Christmas (the weeks following Christmas Day until the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord), varying in length depending on the calendar Lent, and Easter (50 days until Pentecost).

We all love the four natural Seasons we have in Waldorf.. They provide a natural rhythm of change of leaves, flowers, and fruits from one season to another. These are times for change that we enjoy. I recall coming back home with my family after 3 years of hardship in Bangladesh (former East Pakistan) where there are only 2 seasons: dry, sunny winter and then monsoon season (constant torrential rains for two months), and feeling what a joy to discover the charm of the changing four seasons.

In addition to the beauty of amazing Scriptures chosen to allow us to enter into a new changing season, we also have the added uncertainty/ movement of what we call **"Moveable Feasts"**. A "moveable feast" is an observance in a Christian liturgical calendar that occurs on a different date in different years. It provides a healthy pattern of change. Most of these movements of Feasts from Year to Year come from the fact that the date of **Easter Sunday** is chosen as being the first Sunday following the full moon of March, which means that Easter can occur as early as 3rd week of March or as late as the 3rd week of April. Do you like changes? This changing Easter Sunday has an effect on all other moveable feasts, such as **Palm Sunday, Paschal Triduum, Ascension, Pentecost, Blessed Trinity, Corpus Christi, Christ the King**, etc. Another factor for change is the fact that the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (last day of Christmas Season) is also moveable... All this reminds us of last week's column: **time for change**, and the beauty of avoiding constant repetition from one year to the other.

A good definition of the Season of Ordinary Time is that "besides the four main liturgical seasons that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle 33 or 34 weeks in which no particular aspect of the Mystery of Christ is celebrated but rather the Mystery of Christ is honored in its fullness, especially on Sunday's (definition given in Universal Norms, 43- as quoted in the annual **ORDO** published by the Archdiocese giving the Order of Celebration of the Eucharist in a particular year.

What does the Changing Cycle of the Annual Liturgy bring to our Faith and to our Weekly Worship of God on Sunday? It brings a sense of newness every new season every year. Imagine if the Church were to decide that it will no longer use a lunar calendar (like the Jewish people) to select the annual date of Easter, and Easter Sunday would become for example always the First Sunday of April! It would be a revolution! The moveable Easter Sunday reminds us that every Sunday Mass is indeed also an Easter Sunday, celebrating the mystery of our Lord's Resurrection!

I invite you all to meditate this week on the spiritual meaning of an Eucharistic procession as we did on Corpus Christi last week, and also reflect on the Gospel of the forthcoming Sunday June 30 (Luke 9:51-62) so that you can be better prepared for participating actively at Mass this Sunday. May God keep blessing you and your entire families in the next five months as we continue to worship together during this mini season of Ordinary Time (ending November 24 this year.

Come Holy Spirit! Come! Fill our hearts with the Love of the Father for the Son!



*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Volunteers for Summer Activities and Beyond

We are currently recruiting adult volunteers (ages 18+) to work with our parish programs for children and youth over the summer and for the 2019-20 Year (chaperones, Vacation Bible School volunteers, catechists, assistants, mentors, substitutes, office helpers, Youth Core Team members, All Youth Night helpers, OLLC Preschool volunteers, childcare providers during parish programs, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, or are a parent of a child/youth in any of these programs, you are NEEDED!

Adult Volunteers (ages 18+) who have substantial contact with minors (under 18) or vulnerable adults are required to undergo Child Protection Training and get an electronic background check. The next Archdiocesan class for Child Protection taking place locally is Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Archbishop Neale School in La Plata. Spaces are "first registered, first served". To register, establish an account at VIRTUS.org and select that particular class for training. Please see Nieda in the office for more information or visit.

www.olhoc.com/safety

Outreach news

On June 20, 2019, the OLHOC Outreach sponsored a wonderful Shepherd's Table dinner for approximately 80 people.

Many thanks go out to our menu coordinator, Dr. Rosario Fernandez and the Filipino Community for their generosity in planning and preparing this wonderful meal.

The next Shepherd's Table will be on August 22, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.

The Outreach Committee is now collecting school supplies (new pens, pencils, notebooks etc.) for the next school year. A drop-off box can be found in the Fr. Martin Hall. All donations will be taken to the Children's Aid Society of Waldorf. Thank you all! Non-perishable food donations to "Sharing Sunday" may be left in the designated box near the door to Fr. Martin Hall. All donations go to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

During the summer months cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you!



OLLC Preschool

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration is open! Parishioners, please share this information with families you know who may be looking for Catholic Preschool for their child or grandchild, and be sure you have registered your child for fall. For info or to register: email the preschool director, Nieda, at preschool@olhoc.org or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.

****Help Wanted****

Coordinator of Religious Education

After 6 years as the Religious Education coordinator, Mrs. Thiedeman will be leaving in September. Mrs. Thiedeman has devoted much of her time and energy into our program and will be missed.

We are now recruiting for a Coordinator of Religious Education to begin training in August. The selection criteria includes being a practicing Catholic committed to the teachings of the church, with at least 2 years experience as a catechist. The position entails working evenings and weekends. Organizational, planning skills, proficiencies in Microsoft Office are required. Bilingual in English and Spanish is preferred.

Please see our website- www.olhoc.com for information on applying. The deadline to apply is July 5, 2019

Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Wednesday Scripture Study - The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass.

Divine Mercy - Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

40th Anniversary of OLHoC

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to the office regarding what you feel we can/should do to celebrate 40 years of being a Parish. Anyone wishing to help in organizing, please call the office.

We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
Dennis Hook
Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
Nestor Ermelindo Molina
Doris Chesley
James Thompson
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Vicky Welch
Naomi Lilly
Sterling Greene
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Rosano Wheeler
Larry McGraw
Vivian Truxon
Kenny Lindsay

Pat Fisher
Christ Goldhammer
Adele Alvey
Dorothy Neal
Dunnie Proctor
Shirley Ehman
K.D. Dillard
Josephina Knapp
Maria Townsend
Chrystal Beauregard
Sheryl Carter
Alex Leon
Sharketer Butler
Steven Bowling
Edna Yarngo
Kathly Grimes
Damien Price

Sheny Padilla
Richard White
Mary Dooley
Victor Cordero
Georgiana Norgren
Marie Marie Bottorf
Angela Fenwick
and all our military and civilians serving in
harm's way.

*Please let us know if any names should be removed
from the list.*



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, June 29, 9:00 AM: Charles Strawberry Jr.
Saturday, June 29, 5:00 PM: Anthony Coles
Sunday, June 30, 8:30 AM: Rigo Jansen (+) & Ursula Cordner (+)
Sunday, June 30, 10:00 AM: Fr. Christopher Johnson
Sunday, June 30, 11:30 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, June 30, 7:00 PM: Nineth Colomba
Monday, July 1, 9:00 AM: Mary de Galván
Tuesday, July 2, 9:00 AM: Father of Sister Dolores Peters (+)
Wednesday, July 3, 9:00 AM: Myrna's deceased children
Wednesday, July 3, 7:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, July 4, 7:00 PM: Alejandra Barrios
Friday, July 5, 9:00 AM: Rodrigue Lissade (+)

***** Mass on Thursday, July 4th at the Body of Christ Farm will be at 7:30 am.**

Quo Vadis Camp- The Office of Priest Vocations annual Quo Vadis Camp for high school aged young men will be held at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary July 28-31, 2019. For four days, high school aged young men, who desire to grow in holiness, will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic adoration, as well time for fraternity, sports, and reflection. Bus transportation is available. More information is available and registration is open at www.DCpriest.org. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations (vocations@adw.org or (202-636-9020) with any questions.

Prayer to Mary, Help of Christians

O Mary, I wish I could see how you used to behave toward father and mother, especially toward St. Anne; and then how you behaved toward the priests of the temple; and then toward St. Joseph; and toward St. Elizabeth, and St. John the Baptist; and afterwards toward the Apostles, especially toward St. John. I should see how sweet and lovely you were to every one of them; but still your heart was with Jesus only. And they would all feel and understand this, however kind you were to them.
Amen. Catholic Online

Mass Readings for July 7 2019.
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**
Isaiah 66:10-14c
***Second Reading**
Galatians 6:14-18
***Gospel**
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

www.usccb.org

YOUTH NEWS



Steubenville Conference:

Please pray for the youth and chaperones who are on retreat at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio this weekend. Thank you to all who generously support our youth so they can encounter Christ through these awesome opportunities

Camp Covecrest - August 4-10, 2019 in Tiger, Georgia

Join us for Life Teen summer camp - Camp Covecrest, in the North Georgia Mountains, for an amazing and transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith (i.e. high ropes, messy games, obstacle course, zip line, white water rafting, team building experiences, music, talks, reflections, Mass, Adoration & personal growth). For more details, watch a video & to register visit www.olhoc.org/camp

Join Our Youth Support Team which is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. All volunteers must be Virtus Compliant. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website or talk to Marlen Coles.

For more Youth Events or questions contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org or visit: www.olhoc.org/ym

Celebrate the 4th of July at the Foot of the Cross

Join us as we celebrate the 4th of July at the Foot of the Cross. Prepare for Mass with Prelude Music by the OLHOC Youth Choir at 5:30 pm followed by an Outdoor Mass for the United States of America at 6:00 pm. Following the Outdoor Mass, there will be a concert by Libation, games and activities for all ages from 7-9pm. Fireworks will begin once it gets dark. Bring your own picnic and lawn chair. To volunteer or for more information please visit www.olhoc.org/july4

Vacation Bible School planning is well underway, and we are seeking supplies to help us convert our facility into an international airport from which we will travel the world. These kids are in for a Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer! Some of the supplies we know we currently need:

- Cardboard boxes
- Pool noodles
- Left over interior house paint
- Drop cloths
- Paint brushes
- Newspaper
- Blue insulation board (4x8 sheets)

Prep week begins July 15, so please provide your contributions prior to that date. Thank you for your generosity!

Adults interested in registering themselves, youth helpers, or child participants for VBS please register today at olhoc.org/VBS

Get ready for a
RADICAL
Vacation
Bible School
Adventure

July 22-26, 2019
9am - 12 noon daily

Registration Online NOW

Kids (ages 4-11)
Youth Volunteers (12-17)
Adult Volunteers (18-102)

**A Radical Ride on the
Wings of Prayer**
...with Amazing Angels & Super Saints

Your Church: The Lord's House

Please continue to respect your church, the Lord's house, and **refrain from taking any food or beverage into the Church.** If your children need food or beverages, please use the cry room. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as footrests. Thank you!