

April 23, 2023: Third Sunday of Easter

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY DEATH OF FATHER MARTIN: December 31, 1845 - August 6, 1923 KEEPING ALIVE HIS LEGACY 100 YEARS LATER

My column of last week "HOUMA... THIBODAUX" raised a few questions, not so much about the central story about the Installation of Bishop Dorsonville as Fifth Bishop of Houma Thibodaux Diocese in Louisiana but rather about the related story of the CELEBRATION of the CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FATHER MARTIN.

WHO IS FATHER MARTIN?

In a few words Father Narcisse Martin is a French Sulpician Priest who taught in many seminaries (France, Canada, Baltimore USA) before becoming a pastor caring for the souls of the Waldorf area with great zeal for 29 years until his death on August 6, 1923.

The Waldorf area he served covers three current parishes :Sf Michael Baden (with its own mission church St Dominic), St Peter and Our Lady Help of Christians .

WHY DO WE STILL TALK ABOUT A PRIEST 100 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH?

The FATHER MARTIN SOCIETY was created in August 2010 with the goal to keep alive the legacy of Father Narcisse Martin, especially in three areas: EUCHARIST , PRIESTHOOD and INTERCULTURAL UNITY.

First, the Society promotes Devotion to the Eucharist, including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament . Father Martin , while a seminarian professor wrote a Treatise on the Eucharist following the approach of St Thomas Aquinas.

Second, the Society promotes vocations to the Priesthood and prayer/support to ordained priests. Father Martin devoted the major part of his life to the teaching and formation of seminarians. If we did not have priests, we could not have the Eucharist.

Third, the Society promotes intercultural unity, especially UNITY IN CHRIST through welcoming everyone in our churches and becoming ONE IN THE EUCHARIST.

So far, the Society has promoted Transatlantic links with the parishes serving the greater Aire-sur-la-Lys area in Northern France (including St Omer) where Father Martin was born.

The Society has also provided scholarships to low-income students to have a solid Catholic education/foundation (so far at St Peter's School and our own OLHOC Pre-School that sends graduates to St Peter's School).

And most importantly for me , as a pastor of souls and diocesan priest, the Society is now promoting the canonization process for Father Martin, with the first step being consideration to be declared a Servant of God. This first step requires the recognition of a heroic virtue by the Archdiocese of Washington , and then approval by Pope Francis. The Society' s request for initiating such step has been transmitted to our Archbishop Cardinal Gregory: we believe Father Martin is a saint and has indeed demonstrated the heroic virtue of ZEAL FOR SOULS. We are now awaiting the Cardinal ' s response.

CELEBRATING FATHER MARTIN CENTENNIAL, AUGUST 6th

Last week we have already invited you to SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 6. As you are reading this column , a small delegation representing the Board of the Father Martin Society is visiting France to prepare the centennial celebration . We already know that a delegation from France will be Waldorf on August 6. We will give soon you more details on the events planned around this Centennial . Key information will be put on our OLHOC website through a link with the Father Martin Society's own website.

Your questions about Father Martin , the Centennial Celebration and the Father Martin Society are most welcome! We will try to answer them promptly. We also need the help of volunteers between now and August 6 (e.g. assisting with the website, providing transport and lodging for pilgrims coming from France , assisting with reception in Father Martin Hall etc.). Let our Office know if you are interested.

May you pray for the 52 youth being confirmed on Friday evening April 21st . May the Holy Spirit transform them and assist them to stay close to Christ and His Church, the Catholic Church, throughout their entire life.

May God continue blessing you all throughout this Easter Season!

One in Christ,
Fr Alain

***We are asked to pray for:**

Josephina Knapp
Angelo Sparacino
Maria de La Rosa
George Gallagher
D'Vaughn Webster

Lynette Washington
David Mesler
Ken Housewright
Laura Flaim
Zita Walker

Titus Thomas
Andre Walker
Janina Sidorska
Reign T. Young
Anna Caracciolo
Ebehhitale Basil Ahabue

Theodore Veanco Hall

Names will remain for three months or until healed



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, April 22,
9:00 AM: Carolyn Akabogu (+)
5 :00 PM: Bishop Dorsonville
Sunday, April 23,
8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
10:00AM: Candida Costa (+)
11:30 AM: Orlando Lagman (+)
7:00 PM: Ofelia Mora & Hector Zaldiva
Monday, April 24,
9:00AM: Lucrecia Lagman

Tuesday, April 25,
9:00AM: Cielo Family
Wednesday, April 26,
9:00 AM: Natalie Gomez
7:00PM: Abelardo Samoy (+)
Thursday, April 27,
9:00 AM: Sister Rosario
Friday, April 28,
9:00: AM: Albert Lee Sutton (+)
Remember to pray for the souls in Purgatory

Recognizing Jesus

We don't know why the two disciples didn't recognize Jesus while they were walking with him. Perhaps it would have been too easy that way. Instead they have to wrestle with their disappointment and confusion as they talk to him. They talked to him honestly with their emotions exposed.

This can be a model for us. Often we don't see Jesus with us during difficult times in our lives. But we should talk to him openly about how we feel, unafraid to share our negative feelings and disappointment. In the course of this conversation, we may see things differently.

In the end they do clearly see Jesus. Through conversing with him, their hearts turned from the ashes of disappointment to hearts on fire.

<https://young-catholics.com/5474/3rd-sunday-of-easter-year-a>

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

Friday Scripture Study - The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday - The first Friday of each month the evening Mass in Latin is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday - Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

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

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email office@alhoc.org.

Mass Readings for April 30, 2023

4th Sunday of Easter

***First Reading**

Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41

***Second Reading**

1 Peter 2:20b-25

***Gospel**

John 10:1-10

www.usccb.org



Outreach

The next Outreach meeting will be on May 3, 2023 at 7p.m. In Fr. Martin Hall. Everyone is welcome!

The next Shepherd's Table is on April 20, 2023.

"Sharing Sunday" collects nonperishable Food for the Food Bank of Waldorf. The collection box is near the door to Fr. Martin Hall. They are especially in need of boxed cereal of all kinds. Thank you all!

Last days to register!



2 Summer Camps - July 30th - August 5th

EDGE - (Middle School) at Camp Hidden Lake
Life Teen (High School) at Camp Covecrest



We are heading to Georgia!
Week of FAITH, FUN, Adventure & Friends!

Current 5th-12th graders



**Registration is Open,
reserve your spot today!**



**More info. visit www.olhoc.org/camp2023
or contact Gracie Lopez youth@olhoc.org**



Mary's Helping Hands Raffle

Mary's Helping Hands will be selling their Spring Raffle tickets this weekend after all Masses in the Narthex.

The winner will receive a \$300.00 gift certificate to Thompson's Seafood Corner Market. All proceeds will benefit the ADW Southern MD Food Bank of Charles County Student Snack Saks Program.

Thank you for your continued support!

3rd Sunday of Easter

CCD

CCD classes continue April 23/24.

First Communion will be Saturday, May 6.

If you haven't paid your fees for the 2022-2023 year, please do so as soon as possible. Speak to Sister if there are any concerns.

*The following students received the Sacrament of Confirmation by
Bishop Evelio Menjivar on Friday, April 21, 2023*

*Cristian Alejandro Alegria-
Echeverria*

Cruz Guillermo Amavisca

Maureen Chioma Anyanwu

Jackie Moiseh Atembeshu

Ely Marlone Boussou

Gabriel Francis Calungcagin

Fernanda Ruby Cielo

Cindy Guadalupe Cruz

Kayla Sharlyn Cruz-Flores

Jaeda Mischka Lorenzo Diaz

Onyidekachí Kennedy Elebeka

Mildred Elebeke

Diego Noel Garcia-Flores

Xitlali Yamile Garcia-Pena

Tiffany-Rose Gbetholancy

Emilio Bandibas Gianan

Lucrecia Veraly Guerra-Mendez

Arran Thomas Leide

Ma. Anne Therese Marcos

Kris Deanne Centeno Melendez

Elizabeth Roxana Morales-Reina

Joseph Dave Moussi

Gabriel Santos Napoles

Clara Nguyen Cindy

Duy Dong Nguyen

Harvey Wendenguudi Benoit

Ouedraogo

James Gael Perez Urena

Matthew Young Pham

Emilie Clara Pluviose

Nicholas Christian Reisinger

Allison Rodriguez Mejia

Michelle Rodriguez Mejia

Alfred Donald Roscoe IV

Jason Alejandro Santamaria

Urias

Cindy Zuleima Santamaria

Jackson Charles Steuart

James Aughtry Talley II

Bradley Dimitri Torres-Gamboa

Vanessa Lillianh Tran

Brayden Thomas Tucker

Christian James Young