

May 7, 2023: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Highlights of Pilgrimage "On the Footsteps of Father Martin"

Our latest pilgrimage "On the Footsteps of Father Martin" was AWESOME: FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT! This pilgrimage was decided at the last minute. The Board of the Father Martin Society recommended sending a small delegation to go to Northern France right after Easter Sunday. I was asked to lead that mission. We had only three weeks to organize the entire trip. We had one single objective: to help prepare the major celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Death of Father Martin on August 6, 2023. Just three months away! We needed to focus and take action: no longer talking...We needed the help of the HOLY SPIRIT!!!

Time was of the essence! We had to renew bonds with our counterparts in Northern France (Arras Diocese) under a new leadership: a new Diocesan Bishop Olivier Leborgne and a new Dean/Pastor of "Aire-sur-la-Lys Region" Father Jacques Tangombe.

Some background information for our many new parishioners:

This was my fourth visit to Aire-sur-la-Lys in the last 13 years. We had three major pilgrimages in 2010, 2013, and 2017 with a total of close to 100 pilgrims. The earlier Bishop of Arras Jean-Paul Jaeger visited Waldorf in 2011 accompanied by a large delegation from France, including Father Bruno, former Pastor of Aire-sur-la-Lys, several other priests and seminarians Sebastien and David (both now pastors), and representatives of their Parish Council...Some of you may remember our welcoming the French pilgrims at Dulles Airport and then in our own Father Martin Hall (then still called Social Hall). We also had a very spiritual Holy Hour with Bishop Jaeger in our parish with silence punctuated by some beautiful music with our own choir. We also participated in many joint activities at St Peter's Church, St Dominic (today a mission of St Michael Baden parish established by Fr. Martin), and Baltimore with representatives of the Sulpicians (Former St Mary's Sulpician Seminary on Paca St where Fr Martin had taught, Old Cathedral on Paca St, new St Mary's Seminary next to new Cathedral, Northern Baltimore) ... All that excitement occurred 12 years ago...

What we hope to achieve on August 6, 2023:

Today, with the Centennial Celebration planned for August 6, 2023, we hope to deepen our trans-Atlantic spiritual relationship and pave the way for the canonization process of Father Martin by sharing more widely the spiritual legacy of Father Martin 100 years after his death.

Throughout the entire week we spent in France, we received an AMAZING WELCOME. We were in full communion with our Catholic brothers and sisters across the Atlantic: celebrating the Mass together, praying together, laughing together, sharing good meals and good stories... Father Martin was smiling upon us from Heaven! He could see some of the fruits of the inter-cultural UNITY he had brought about in the Waldorf area over 100 years

ago through a relentless evangelization of all the souls in his parish area, including African-Americans, Native Piscataway Indians, and recent German-speaker immigrants (French Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, Austria).

We were a total of six pilgrims. We did face some challenges including unrest in France (major strikes, a few airports closed, and violence in major cities). But God had a Plan. In the end, we believe that the HOLY SPIRIT guided our pilgrimage and was present at all times, pouring upon us HIS JOY Day after day...We all came back refreshed, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Was our mission accomplished? Time will tell...

I will write to you next week about some of the specific ideas/activities emerging from our pilgrimage. We already shared them last Sunday afternoon with about 20 pilgrims from our earlier three trips ... We would like to seek further unity in our parish in the next three months through a joint effort...We already have some key volunteers on board, but we need many more, especially our children, youth, and young families...Stay tuned! We know the Lord will provide!

Ending with a personal note:

One personal highlight of this pilgrimage for me was "a spiritual high" when celebrating the Mass with our pilgrims at the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal, Rue du Bac, in Paris, the same chapel in which St Catherine Laboure saw two special apparitions of Mary in 1830... Throughout the Mass, I felt an immense Joy that I cannot describe. There was a sense of total Peace! All of us can have these special holy moments that the Holy Spirit wants to pour upon us from time to time. In these moments, we can feel total Peace, a total Absence of Fear. We should all cherish these moments of spiritual high, knowing that they will be followed by moments of spiritual low and attacks by the devil ...But we should remember that God is always Victorious and that through the HOLY SPIRIT, HE can make everything possible for all of us sinners without exception. We just have to BELIEVE IN HIM and LET HIM GUIDE US AND TRANSFORM US.

May the HOLY SPIRIT descend upon each one of us today...and tomorrow...as we continue our Easter Journey toward the climax of PENTECOST!

Let us all pray for the 38 First Communicants this coming Saturday May 6!

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, May 6

9:00 AM: Antonina Magpantay

5:00 PM: Knights of Columbus

Sunday, May 7,

8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners

10:00AM: Jose & AnnaMaria

Gonzales and family

11:30 AM: Ludivina Tamondong (+)

1:00 PM: Malik Diarra & Patricia

Firmin

7:00 PM: Ofelia Mora & Hector Zaldiva

Monday, May 8,

9:00AM: George Lambert

Tuesday, May 9,

9:00AM: Martine Etamane

Wednesday, May 10,

9:00 AM: David Roberts (+)

7:00PM: Manuel Gomes (+)

Thursday, May 11,

9:00 AM: Amour Laurentine Etamane(+)

Friday, May 12,

9:00: AM: Stephanie Arenas

Latin Mass– First Friday May 5th at 7 PM

Our Mass said in Latin is celebrated on the first Friday of every month. For those of us who do not speak Latin, we have a booklet to give you similar information to the Missalettes in the pews. With English on one side, Latin on the other, it is easier to follow along with Father Alain.

1 PM Mass on the 1st Sunday, May 7

Parlez-vous français?

The first Sunday of each month, we have an additional Mass at 1 PM celebrated in French. Booklets are provided to guide you through the Mass.

This is a very joyful Mass! The preaching is in perfect French (No English accent). The Choir loves to sing French Hymns to the glory of God and it shows. After the Mass, parishioners bring some food for all to enjoy in the Narthex. Come, see for yourself!

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 May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

***First Reading**

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

***Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:15-18

***Gospel**

John 14:15-21

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ORDINATION OF DEACON JUAN PABLO

Saturday, June 17 at 10 am

Our very own Deacon Juan Pablo Noboa will be ordained a Priest by Cardinal Wilton Gregory at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on **Saturday June 17 at 10 am.**

If you want to have good seats, let Deacon JUAN PABLO know as early as possible as he has a limited amount of seats reserved for his family and friends.

If you need a ride, consider carpooling with friends and neighbors! Many people attend by themselves, and would enjoy taking a few people from the Parish. The person you sit next to in Mass may be going and would enjoy your company.

The next time you come to Mass, make a friend and give/get a ride!

Sunday, June 18th at 11:30 am

Father Juan Pablo will celebrate his first Mass at 11:30 am with us. A reception will follow Mass in the Father Martin Hall. Everyone is invited.

If you are interested in helping set up this joyful event, please call the office.

"Blue Mass" for Police Officers 7 pm Wednesday May 17

If you know Police Officers in area do not hesitate to invite them to join you as we pray for all Police Officers who protect our lives and ensure a secure environment for our families in Waldorf Area ... If you have any suggestions contact Jeannie Jacobs or Larry Perkins who are handling the parish invitations to those in charge of the Police Officers serving our area and protecting all of us.

New homeschool co-op for the 2023-24 school year for Elementary & Middle grade students

Science, Health, Music, and More

Are you searching for an academic homeschool community that celebrates your Catholic faith and pursues truth through both faith and reason? Faith And Reason (FAR) is a Catholic Homeschooling Co-Op which will meet at Our Lady Help of Christians in Waldorf, MD. Join us for a breakfast potluck & open house on **Saturday, May 20 or Monday, May 22, after the 9 am Mass.** Questions? Contact FARCatholicCoop@gmail.com. Join FAR for the 2023-24 school year!

5th Sunday of Easter

First Holy Communion

Please join us in congratulating the 38 children who received their First Communion on Saturday, May 6, 2023. We welcome them into our community of faith!

The names of those who received the Sacrament are listed in the front of the church.

Parish Feast Day

Sunday, May 21

We are celebrating the Feast day of *Our Lady Help of Christians*, Sunday, May 21. It is also the day our parish acknowledges those who have made their Sacraments this year, and the last day of CCD for the 2022/2023 school year.

The day will begin with Prayer in front of Our Lady at 11 am, leading to the Crowning of Mary. Please plan on attending along with the children who have made their Confirmation, First Communion, and the Marian Group in praying a decade of the Rosary. You are encouraged to bring flowers to place in front of the statue of our Blessed Mother.

The 11:30 Mass will be outdoors! We will have the tents set up for protection from the sun (Father assures us it will not rain that day!). Some chairs will be set up, you may want to bring your own to ensure a seat. See you there!



Get ready for an out of this world summer experience for the whole family- Stellar VBS is coming to OLHOC! Dates for this year's VBS are June 26th – June 30th, and this year it will be held in the **evenings**, which means we need your help! We will be having a **Volunteer Meeting** this Thurs-



day, May 11th at 7PM in the Fr. Martin Hall. All parents, high school and middle school students are encouraged to volunteer. Sign-ups for students will be made available after that volunteer meeting. Let's make this the most **stellar** summer ever! For any questions, please contact Emily Vara at emilyv@olhoc.com.

So, what does a Priest do?

Quo Vadis Camp, for high school age young men, will be held at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary from Sunday, July 23, to Wednesday, July 26, 2023. For four days, high school age young men who desire to grow in holiness will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic adoration, as well as time for recreation, sports, and fraternity. Quo Vadis Camp is run by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. Bus transportation will be available. Please register now at <https://dcpriest.org/2023-quo-vadis-camp>. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Priest Vocations at vocations@adw.org or call 202-636-9020.