

June 11, 2023: Corpus Christi

Deacon Juan Pablo's last Homily as Deacon

Last week-end we celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Preaching on this Sunday is challenging. It happened to be "Deacons' preaching Sunday" (held once every five weeks).

We have been blessed to have three deacons assisting us since last September: newly ordained Deacon Juan Pablo was assigned to our parish in his last year of preparation to the priesthood.

In his last homily as Deacon, Deacon Juan Pablo focused on "Vocations/Calls from God" as he was addressing the OLVHC Graduates from High School and College. It was a wonderful opportunity for Deacon Juan Pablo to talk about his own vocation story. Please find below excerpts from his last homily:

The mystery of the Trinity cannot be fully understood due to the limitedness of our humanity. The readings this Sunday allow us to have a glimpse of this mystery. God is one, God is love, God is merciful, and God is mission.

In the first reading, we see Moses interceding for the "stiff-necked people," pleading God to make himself available to them. Moses, prefiguring Jesus Christ, reveals that God is merciful and loving, despite one's sins and idolatries. This is true. It is an experience; it has been my experience.

I congratulate you for finishing High School and College. I have been there, and I am aware of the excitement, the fears, the projects... that are filling your lives. When I was about to graduate, I received my letters of acceptance from universities in the UK and in the US offering me nice scholarships. Something strange occurred. None of the letters containing this exciting news gave me peace or profound joy. There was something missing. What was I to do in life? What do I live for?

I was invited to participate in a four-day vocational retreat. It started on a Thursday and finished on Sunday. There was a problem: my graduation ceremony (where I was giving a speech) was on that Thursday and the prom at the Marriott Hotel in Quito was on Friday. I had two options; it was either to party or to choose God. What did I choose? I did not choose God, I chose my idols (affection, prestige, music, etc.). This is what happened to the Israelites who started worshipping the golden calf. They sought instant gratification.

The party began at 6pm and finished at 6am. God was merciful to me. My family was sitting right next to the open bar. This prevented me from getting drunk. While my friends soon after the party started were completely drunk, I kept dancing for several hours. The music, the friends, the family, the great company... None of this fulfilled me. I felt empty. At the end of the party, I, dressed with my tuxedo, asked my dad to take me to the bus stop for me to go two hours away and attend the vocational retreat. I thought that upon arriving there, the catechists organizing the retreat were going to send me back to my city. "Was I mature enough for them to take me seriously?"

To my surprise, they told me, "Welcome! Did you have breakfast?" I experienced the mercy, patience, and love of God. I open a parenthesis for all the catechists, parents, teachers, priests, and deacons. Be merciful! Be patient! Be loving! Our children and youth already suffer enough out in the world.

They need to encounter God through you. Also, I invite you to remember how God has been merciful to you. They need to experience the power of the Trinity, the power of love.

At the end of the retreat, the priest asked me, "Do you want to be happy? Leave your plans and do God's will." Without thinking, I answered "yes" to being happy and to go to the seminary. I experienced peace, the peace that none of my projects could provide. I was destined by lottery/chance to Washington to be formed as a diocesan missionary presbyter. It has been quite a journey. The Lord has allowed me little by little to know how sinful and unfaithful I am, and more importantly how loving he is. God has given meaning to my life.

God wants to give meaning to your life. He wants you to experience him in order to fill that immense void that all of us have.

As you start a new chapter in your lives, I invite you to keep this in mind: God loves you! He will never stop loving and forgiving you, no matter what you do and no matter how many times you betray him. This is your home, the Church, where you can receive life, where you can discover who you are, where you come from, and where you are going. You are called to have eternal life, life. There is no other life outside in the world.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, I invite you to, in the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, to "Go and set the world on fire!" This generation, more than ever, needs to receive the good news. They need to experience through you that it is possible to forgive, to love, to be happy. Go and set the world on fire with the fire of the Holy Spirit! May the Lord bless all our paths so that we may experience already on this earth the graces of life eternal. Amen.

I am sure you have enjoyed reading this beautiful Homily by Deacon Juan Pablo, and you have appreciated learning more about his personal journey from graduate student in Ecuador, to Priest for the Archdiocese of Washington.

As you know, Deacon Juan Pablo will be ordained to the Priesthood at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on June 17, and will be celebrating his first mass as Priest in our own parish the next morning at 11:30 am. You are all invited to join the Reception we will hold for him and his family and friends from Ecuador in the Father Martin Hall following the Mass.

My God continue pouring his blessings upon Father Juan Pablo.

One in Christ,
Father Alain



***We are asked to pray for:**
 George Gallagher
 D’Vaughn Webster
 Lynette Washington
 David Mesler
 Ken Housewright

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

Theodore Veanco Hall
 Wanda Lapinski

Names will remain for three months or until healed



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, June 10,

9:00 AM: Mary Ardita

5 :00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, June 11,

8:30 AM: Spaska Palov (+)

10:00AM: Caroline Akabogu (+)

11:30 AM: Jai & Larry Sutton

7:00 PM: Alana Maria Argueta (+)

Monday, June 12,

9:00AM: Christian Ouedraogo (+)

Tuesday, June 13,

9:00AM: Marie & Jean Moussi

Wednesday, June 14,

9:00 AM: George Floria (+)

7:00PM: Diego Crespo (+)

Thursday, June 15,

9:00 AM: Carlos & Isaiah Watson

Friday, June 16,

9:00: AM: Rolande Desiree

Etammane (+)

Prayer for the Ordinandi

Friday, June 16, 6 pm until 1 am

Join us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for those to be ordained priests
June 16, from 6 pm until 1 am.

Unite with parishes throughout The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington as we anticipate the ordination of six future priests on Saturday, June 17. This year’s ordinandi are:

For the priesthood—

Dcn. Martin Joseph Begley

Dcn. Taylor Gregory Colwell

Dcn. John Francis Lado

Dcn. Juan Pablo Noboa

Dcn. Pablo Andres Villa Jaramillo

Dcn. Vincent Tinh Vu

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” Mt 9:37–38

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 June 18, 2023

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



***First Reading**
Exodus 19:2-6a

***Second Reading**
Romans 5:6-11

***Gospel**
Matthew 9:36-10:8

www.usccb.org

**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF DEACON JUAN PABLO
SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH 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.**

**FATHER JUAN PABLO
FIRST MASS AT OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 11:30 AM**

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



**Vacation Bible School
June 26th - June 30th
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM**



**Get ready for an out of this world
summer experience for the
whole family!**



**Dinner will
be provided!**



**Participants (ages 4-11)
Youth Volunteers
(ages 12-17)
Adult Volunteers (18+)**

**For questions, contact Emily
Vara at emilyv@olhoc.org**

\$30 per participant <https://www.olhoc.com/vbs23reg>

Corpus Christi



**Join us Sunday, June 11th
The Solemnity of Corpus Christi**

11:30 AM Mass



**Followed by outdoor
Eucharistic Procession**
Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
Corpus Christi



**Después de la Misa
Procesión Eucarística**
Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo
Corpus Christi



**Bring your family &
friends
as we walk with Jesus in
prayer and singing!**

**Ven con la familia y
invita a tus amigos!**



Church Grounds Beautification Laudato Si

The next outside clean up date is **Saturday, June 24**. We will be cleaning the outside of the church, St. Thomas, St. Ignatius, and Village St.
Please come join us after the 9 am Mass. We all feel better when we have clean surroundings, especially around our Church!

(?'s, contact Sr Rosario
sister@olhoc.org)

CCD Registration is Open for 2023-2024

Please visit the website www.olhoc.org/re



**Registration for
First Holy Communion
2023-2024 is open**

visit www.olhoc.org/1communion

**Registration for Confirmation
2023-2024 is open**
visit

www.olhoc.org/confirmation-1

