



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church



8968 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 † 504-394-0314 † Fax: 504-394-0376
Web: www.olphbc.org † Email: churchoffice@olphbc.org

OFFICE HOURS—Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Please call between these times for routine parish business.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Kyle V. Dave, Pastor
kdave@arch-no.org
Rev. William F. Maestri,
Ministry of Sacraments & Education
George "Ed" Merritt, Jr., Deacon
emerritt@arch-no.org
Brittany Breaux, School Principal
bbreaux@olphbcschool.org
Dawn Bassett, Administrative Assistant
Suzette Perrin, Coordinator of Religious Education and Adult Formation
cre@olphbc.org
Angel Boyd, Receptionist
Debbie Fagnano, Director of Music Ministry
TJ Lejeune & Kenneth Pouwels,
Maintenance Supervisors

OLPH SCHOOL

8970 Highway 23 † 504-394-0757

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

8968 Highway 23 † 504-394-0314

K.C. HALL

9016 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 7:30 a.m. & Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Monday 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. During the school year
(7:30 a.m. when school is not
in session)
Thursday 7:30 a.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m.
First Friday Adoration: 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Holy Days: Consult the bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.
2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANOINTING)

By appointment only

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, are a living and growing Catholic community of faith, striving to follow and serve Christ. We are an evangelizing community, and we welcome others to fullness of life in Christ. With Mary we say "Yes" to God's call to pray together, worship consciously, and serve joyfully.

To visit our church website scan the QR code below:





NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to a very friendly and enthusiastic community. Please fill out the information in the Binder on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or register at the Church Office. A Census Form can also be found on our website at www.olphbc.org.

Sacraments



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. To begin the process, parents are encouraged to go to our website at www.olphbc.org to access the forms under Sacraments and return the forms by email or drop off at the Church Office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar prior to the Baptism. The Baptismal Seminar is held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Day Chapel. If you need more information or have questions, call the Rectory at (504) 394-0314 or email cre@olphbc.org.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION: First Eucharist is celebrated the first Saturday of May for students in the 2nd grade or above. Children older than 2nd grade will be prepared on individual situations. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be celebrated prior to Communion.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. Candidates who attend Catholic high school or are enrolled in the High School of Religion program come together for Sacramental preparation. All candidates are asked to pre-register in their freshmen year and no later than December of their 10th grade year. Information and registration can be found on our website: www.olphbc.org.

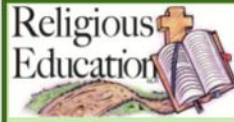
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact the Church Office or email cre@olphbc.org.



VISITATION OF THE SICK: Inform the Church Office when someone is sick, shut-in or hospitalized and unable to attend Mass.

FUNERALS: Inform the Church Office as soon as possible when someone in the family dies, preferably before contacting the funeral home.



Religious Education

The mission of OLPH's Religious Education program is to bring the "Good News" of God's love to all children and their families and to call them to commit their lives to Christ. Religious Education is available for children in Kindergarten through adults. We encourage parents to be parishioners of OLPH when registering students for Religious Education classes. Census forms can be obtained from the Parish Office during regular business hours, on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or you can register online. Call the Church Office at (504) 394-0314, or email cre@olphbc.org for more information.

SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD: Children in grades K-2nd are invited with a catechist during 10:30 a.m. Mass to the Day Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word for Children (September-May). A summary of the readings of the day is discussed on their level.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Our PSR program is divided in two parts. Family Faith Formation is the "academic" part with the textbook discussed at home as a family. Our Encountering Engaging Events are a chance to come together as a community to worship together, do crafts, or engage in traditional events like our Nativity Play and Living Way of the Cross.

HIGH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Students in 9th through 12th grade not attending a Catholic High School are offered Faith Formation with academics at home, working at their own pace, but also some time to get together to discuss what they have learned with their peers about three times a year. It is intended to be an informal study with honest Catholic answers.

RCIA: Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or completing Sacraments? Please join our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We have a Year-Round RCIA process that you can enter into whenever you are ready. This is for you if you have never been baptized, if you have been baptized into another denomination and now want to become Catholic, or if you are an adult Catholic but have never been confirmed. Sessions will be held in person with day and time to be adjusted to personal schedules. For additional information and to register, contact the Church Office or email cre@olphbc.org.

Archdiocese of New Orleans Safe Environment— Refer to the Web Site: <http://www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment> for policies and procedures concerning safe environment and child protection.

Scripture Readings & Events this Week

Saturday, August 24, Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle;
Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
 Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.
 Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Sunday, August 25, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Eph
5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32; Jn 6:60-69

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
 Fourth Sunday—10:30 a.m. Mass—Baptisms
 Confirmation Class, Church—5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 26, 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5; Mt 23:13-22

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Tuesday, August 27, Memorial of Saint Monica; 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Mt 23:23-26

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
 Confessions, Church—5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.
 Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church—6:50 p.m.
 Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Wednesday, August 28, Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mt 23:27-32

Daily Mass, Church—8:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
 PSR Opening Mass & Book Blessing, Church—4:45 p.m.

Thursday, August 29, Memorial of The Passion of Saint John the Baptist; 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 6:17-29

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
 Catholicism Class, KC Hall—7:00 p.m. (Fr. M)

Friday, August 30, 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
 Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 31, 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 25:14-30

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
 Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.
 Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Sunday, August September 1, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
 2nd Collection—Building & Maintenance Fund, All Masses

Mass Intentions

8/24, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— For the Parishioners

8/25, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— Dinko Popich, Eva Vujnovich, Marija & Kuzma Tesvich, Sr., Carolyn Nielsen, Adrian Ester & Roberta Bruley, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Mary Robbie Lowry

8/25, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.— Luko & Marija Bilic, Seth David Chedville, Blaze St. Marie, Eric Hansen, Francis Gainey, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Eva Vujnovich, Evelyn Mistich, Sandra Sherrie Young, Juliet Chermie, Helen Abadie Morris

8/26, Monday, 7:30 a.m.— Evelyn Mistich

8/27, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.— Evelyn Mistich

8/27, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.— Allie Boteler

8/28, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.— Evelyn Mistich

8/29, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

8/30, Friday, 7:30 a.m.— Carolyn Nielsen

8/31, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

8/31, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— Eric Hansen, Larry Avist, Sr., Michael G. Tredinich, Beverly Hebert, Johnny Arcement, Alton Arcement, Hilton Arcement, Evelyn Mistich, Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Darrell Roy, for the intentions of Annette Joe, for the intentions of Douglas Francois IV, Francis Gainey, Eva Vujnovich, Rene' Bowers, Seth David Chedville, Mildred Benoit, Paul Comeaux

9/1, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— For the Parishioners

9/1, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.— Wayne Perrin, Ante & Marija Jurisic, Theresa L. Bossier, Rosebud L. Dumesnil, Rosemary (Schaubhut) Hebert, Pat & Dolly Stakelum, Seth David Chedville, Blaze St. Marie, Eric Hansen, Dinko Popich, Eva Vujnovich, Marija & Kuzma Tesvich, Sr., Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Sandra Sherrie Young, Helen Abadie Morris



COME JOIN THE HEAVENLY CHORUS

The Heavenly Chorus of OLPH will be resuming rehearsals on **Thursday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m.** in the church. If you enjoy singing at Mass, consider joining the choir. No experience is necessary and repertoire includes various styles of music. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings, the choir sings at 10:30 Mass on Sundays and also at other liturgies throughout the church year. For further information, contact Music Director, Debbie Fagnano, through the Parish Office, (504) 394-0314, or stop by the organ after any weekend Mass to meet with her.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Year 2024

August— For Political Leaders



We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.



HURRICANE PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us from all harm during this hurricane season; and protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. AMEN

OLPH School News



OLPH Fair News



OLPH GLOWS WILD

2024 OLPH Parish Fair
Friday, October 11, 2024 -
Sunday, October 13, 2024

FAIR SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor, please visit
www.olphbc.org fair page for the form.

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$2,000.00

- Full Color Large Stage Banner
- Full Color Highway Banner
- Electronic Ad on OLPH Marquis on Hwy. 23
- T-Shirt Advertisement
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- Recognition in School Newsletter
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

GOLD SPONSOR: \$1,500.00

- Full Color Highway Banner
- Electronic Ad on OLPH Marquis
- T-Shirt Advertisement
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

SILVER SPONSOR: \$750.00

- Full Color Highway Banner
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$300.00

- Booth Sign
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

If you are interested in a different type of sponsorship or adding anything onto your package, please let us know!

If anyone wants to volunteer to help with planning our Fair, please contact Amie at (504) 654-6078 or email olphfair-chairs@gmail.com.

RAFFLE TICKETS and T-SHIRTS

Fair 50/50 Raffle Tickets will be sold after all masses beginning this weekend at the back of church. OLPH Fair would like to thank Wayne Breaux Electrical for the 2024 raffle ticket sponsorship.

Also, Fair T-shirt order forms can be found in the back of church this weekend. Please complete the form and return it with payment to the church or school office.

2024 FAIR CHAIRS

Tommy & Theresa Hua,
Brad & Kacie Thibodeaux,
Stephen & Jenn Bowman,
Mike & Amy Adams and
Gary & Amie Hebert

St. Michael the Archangel—Pray for Us!

Who is St. Michael the Archangel?

SAINT Michael is the leader of all the angels and the army of God against Satan and his followers. In Christian culture, Michael is the most dazzling and famous archangel. He not only has the courage and incomparability that mortals do not have. Power also has the most beautiful appearance, very handsome. He is brave and courageous. Although warlike, he is full of compassion. He holds absolute negation and ruthless annihilation of sins. The incarnation of “absolute justice” without a hint of darkness.

The title “Archangel” means “chief” or “principal”. In Hebrew, the name “Michael” means “who is like God?” The term “saint” is also applied to angels and archangels since they are in heaven and stand before the throne of God.

St. Michael has four major offices: First, to combat Satan; Second, to escort the faithful to heaven at the hour of their death; Third, to be a champion of all Christians, and the Church itself, and Fourth, to call people from life on earth to their heavenly judgment.

St. Michael in Art (paintings and sculptures)

St. Michael often appears as a young man with long hair, holding a cross-shaped sword trampling on the defeated Devil in the form of a dragon or large serpent symbolizing his victory over the power of evil. St. Michael's wings are styled on those of a swan, suggesting purity. St. Michael is shown dressed in Roman armor. This military attire symbolizes his role in the war in heaven, mentioned in Revelation.

Patron Saint: St. Michael has been invoked as patron and protector by the Church from time of the Apostles. He is also the patron of soldiers, police and doctors. During the Middle Ages several military orders were dedicated to his name.

Feast Day: The Feast Day of the Archangel Michael together with Gabriel and Raphael is celebrated on September 29th.



Did you know that our St. Padre Pio Statue that we received last June and our new St. Michael the Archangel Statue are made out of wood? Both statues were individually sketched, carved and painted by ALBL Oberammergau, a Woodcarving Studio for Sacred Art from the famous Passion play village Oberammergau, Germany. Their entire woodcarving family ancestry can be traced back until 1556, and they operate now in the 14th generation.



What is the Origin of the St. Michael Prayer?

On Oct. 1, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a deeply disturbing mystical experience at Mass. He had just finished celebrating in his private chapel when he suddenly stood transfixed in front of the altar. For perhaps 10 minutes he stood there as if in a trance, his face drained of color. Then he went to his office and composed a prayer to St. Michael. He told his staff the prayer should be offered throughout the Church. He explained that he had heard two voices in the vicinity of the tabernacle. He believed they were the voices of Our Lord and of Satan. Pope Leo heard Satan boast that he could destroy the Church in 75 or 100 years, if given the opportunity. Then he heard Our Lord give Satan permission to try. The prayer was 10 times the length of the version we use today and was discontinued in 1964. Thirty years later, Pope John Paul II revived use of the prayer. <https://www.simplycatholic.com/st-michael-prayer/>

Pope Leo XIII prayer to St. Michael:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. AMEN

Why do we pray to St. Michael the Archangel?

St. Michael is one of the most beloved saints in the Catholic tradition because of his strength and dedication to God. Many people say the St. Michael Prayer every day. We are engaged in a war that, in one form or another, has been waged between God and the devil for the whole of human history. Each of us is struggling with the dark side, trying to separate us from our creator's eternal life. Satan's idea of our immortality is to live with him through hatred and pain, and he is always searching for as many souls as possible!

Let us not be afraid to seek St. Michael's help in this prayer and others like it. We need to remember that every time we pray, we have to defeat our real enemies, not each other, but the devil and his evil spirit. As St. Paul says, we are “not against flesh and blood, but against public authority and power, against the rulers of this dark world, against the evil spirits.” With God's help, they can all be overcome.



St. Michael in the Bible: St. Michael is one of the three archangels named in the Bible. The other two are Gabriel and Raphael. Five times his name is recorded in the Bible: Daniel 10:13, 10:21 and 12:1; Jude 1:9; and Revelation 12:7-9 “there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon...And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil”. In the Book of Revelation, St. Michael leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil. In the Book of Daniel, he is called “Michael, one of the chief princes” who defends Israel against its enemies.



*Next Sunday is the
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8. You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you—keep the commands of the Lord.

James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27. Be doers of the word.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. You forget the commandments of God and hold on to the traditions of men.



The Sanctuary Light by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in loving memory of: **Cathy Madere**, requested by The Madere Family; and **Juliet Cheramie**, requested by The Kennair Family.

If you would like to have the Sanctuary Light burn in memory of a loved one, call the Church Office. The donation for the Sanctuary Light is \$10.

*Taste and see the
Goodness of the Lord.*



**TREASURES FROM
OUR TRADITION**

The Eucharist was never meant to be only “comfort food,” something that makes us feel warm and satisfied. It is to be bread for the journey,

nourishment for the task that God has set for our community and for each one of us. Thus it is not surprising to see some walk away in today’s Gospel, for they understood that recognizing Jesus as the bread of life is a commitment to changing one’s life.

St. Augustine, whose feast we celebrate this week, once observed that in celebrating the Eucharist we become what we receive, the Body of Christ. As we conclude the series of reflections in John’s Gospel on Jesus as the bread of life, it is appropriate to think about the role that the Eucharist plays in our lives and in our parish. It is in the Eucharist that we are nourished and renew our commitment in faith to serve the Lord. How does the parish social ministry carry out that mandate? How do you carry it out in your own life? Is it related in any way to the celebration of the Eucharist? How does celebrating Mass Sunday after Sunday make a difference in your life and in the world? —Rev. James Field

Sponsor of the Week:



Greg West

504-382-0973

Look to the back now! Look and remember to support these businesses when you need a product or service. Also, tell them “thank you” for their interest in Our Lady of Perpetual Help.



Taken Out of Context

If you want to start an argument, try telling your wife that St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians says she should agree with everything you say. I’m sure that many people have taken out of context the line about wives being submissive to their husbands. In fact, the first sentence says they both should be subordinate to one another. (Eph 5:21)

So what does Christ show us guys about being subordinate to our wives? Paul mentions the main example: Christ handing himself over for her (the Church) refers to his death on the cross. He made it even clearer for them the night before he died: He washed the feet of his disciples and told them to do the same for each other. (Jn 13:14-15).

Still not sure that subordination is a mutual quality in marriage? Paul explains that marriage is the best example of “love your neighbor as yourself.” He quotes Genesis 2:24 about two people becoming one body. So your love for yourself now becomes love for your spouse. Do I love my wife so much that what she needs is as important to me as what I need? Do we encourage and support each other in our chores and weaknesses? Do we support each other’s faith? Ladies, ask yourselves the same questions.

Paul’s conclusion is that marriage is a sign of what the church should be. If you ever want to know what the love of Christ for his Church is, look at how a couple in a strong marriage love each other. And if you want to have a good marriage, love each other as Christ loves you. Tom Schmidt



The flowers in church this week were donated in loving memory of:

Juliet Cheramie, requested by The Kennair Family.

Church Flowers—Anyone who wishes to donate the flowers in church in memory of a loved one for a particular weekend may call the church office. The donation is \$50 payable to the Altar Society.

Stewardship
All things are possible with God



**Church Financials
Fiscal Month Ending
March 31, 2024**

Total Income \$ 557,000

Total Expense \$ 544,000

Net Gain/(Loss) \$ 13,000*

*includes Fair Net Proceeds of \$90,000 and Rectory Roof Replacement of \$(43,000).

Thank you to our parish family members who faithfully support our parish. May God bless you for your generosity!

Online Giving Is Available on Our Website at www.olphbc.org (click on Give Online), or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You can easily create your donation account online and make changes at any time.



The Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time



Straight Talk

by: Father William Maestri

Blessed are the STUCK!

I would like to offer an addition to The Eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus, the most influential sermon ever preached (Mt 5: 3-10). In today's post-modern world, Jesus might have added: "Blessed are the STUCK, for they shall have strength unimagined."

No doubt to some, this is a clear case of blasphemy and a present danger to the faith. However, if one takes a few deep yoga breaths, such may not be the case.

Ever since Francis Bacon (1561-1626), decided to throw nature on the rack of the new scientific method (*Novum Organum*, 1620), and force it (nature) to reveal its secrets, the modern mind has been ruled by the categorical imperative: the workings of nature can be known, and second, with this new method (inductive reasoning) modern man can manipulate and control nature to fit one's desires. We can direct nature, with the aid of technology, in order to conquer the "givens" of nature to suit our purposes (ideological-biological, environmental, and sexual). Gone are the days of obedience to nature's domination. We have overthrown the king. WE are now the masters of the universe. Open to man is a future of UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES. The only limitations are self-imposed: fear of change, bigotry, lack of imagination, or for now the technology. With Bacon and his apostles (Voltaire, Jefferson, and the drafting of the Napoleonic Code, as well as early reports on Colonial settlements), The Church of Progress was assembled by Bacon, and we are all members: "Bacon's influence in the modern world is so great that every man who rides in a train, sends a telegraph...eats a good dinner...undergoes a painless surgical operation, owes him something." (*The story of Lord Bacon's Life*, 1862. Wm. Dixon).

The offspring of Bacon embraced the new method and applied it to society, culture, and the last frontier - MAN! If nature can be manipulated, why can't social conventions, cultural traditions, and human nature be included? Why not engineer a new set of cultural values, social roles, and fabricate the NEW MAN to meet the demands of the "brave new world" (Aldous Huxley)?

The mentality which has taken hold is that life is a problem to be solved, hence there must be a solution satisfactory to our desires. When one is stuck in a dead-end job, boring classes, loveless marriages, annoying neighbors, insensitive friends, there must be a way to get unstuck. The usual suspects for a "solution" are parents turned advocates, influence and money, a law suit, a psychotherapist, and the "old faithful" - walk away, no matter the collateral damage (children). All's fair in securing our "right" to a fix.

But does this solve the "problem"? Or does this mentality weaken and eventually cripple one's ability to endure? Life is filled with being stuck in traffic and dead-end streets. How we respond is key, for in the struggle is the strength, with patience we enhance our soul (Lk 21: 19).

Catholic philosopher, Gabriel Marcel, holds that life is a mystery, a gift, in which we dwell rather than a problem in search of a fix. Too often the "medicine" is worse than the dis-ease. The prophet Isaiah asks, "Where would you yet be stuck, you that rebel again and again?" (1: 5). All attempts at SELF-MEDICATION fail (1: 6). A cry deep within asks, "When, from WHOM, will help come?" The poet Friedrich Holderlin (1770-1843) wrote, "Where the danger is, also grows the saving power." (*Hyperion*).

Where is the danger, and the Who? For the Christian, and the whole of creation, the danger is Bethlehem (Lk 2: 4), Gethsemane (Mt 26: 36), and Golgotha (Mt 27: 33). The Who is Jesus, for he is both "stuck" and NAILED to the work of his Father (Jn 8: 28-30).

Those who desire to follow Jesus, must be gift to and for others; endure the agony of dying daily to self; carry a cross; and surrender all into the Father's hands (Lk 23: 46-7). Yet, from such a surrender, "ALSO GROWS THE SAVING POWER". The Easter angel declares, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised...go and tell..." (Mk 16: 6-7).

These angelic words travel through the ages to each of us. The mission of the Church, and our baptismal vocation, is to "go and tell". Jesus is no longer stuck in a tomb, blocked by a large stone, and guarded by soldiers (Mt 27: 60;65). He is Risen! "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col 1: 28).

In those times, in faith and circumstance, when we are stuck, it can be an opening to grace, to God wanting a word with us. May our response be, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1Sam 3: 10).



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