



# 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](http://www.olphbc.org) † Email: [churchoffice@olphbc.org](mailto: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](mailto:kdave@arch-no.org)  
**Rev. William F. Maestri,**  
*Ministry of Sacraments & Education*  
**George "Ed" Merritt, Jr., Deacon**  
[emerritt@arch-no.org](mailto:emerritt@arch-no.org)  
**Brittany Breaux, School Principal**  
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**Dawn Bassett, Administrative Assistant**  
**Suzette Perrin, Coordinator of Religious Education and Adult Formation**  
[cre@olphbc.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.olphbc.org).

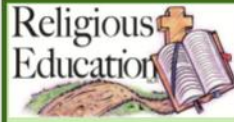
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

**For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, October 12, Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 11:27-28—FAIR WEEKEND**

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, October 13, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 or Mk 10:17-27—FAIR WEEKEND**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)

**Monday, October 14, Memorial of Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr; Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7; Lk 11:29-32**

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

**Tuesday, October 15, Memorial of Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church; Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48; Lk 11:37-41**

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.  
KC Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.  
Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

**Wednesday, October 16, Memorial of Saint Hedwig, Religious, and Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin; Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 11:42-46**

Daily Mass, Church—8:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

**Thursday, October 17, Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr; Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 11:47-54**

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)  
Choir Rehearsal, Church—7:00 p.m.

**Friday, October 18, Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist; 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145; 10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9**

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, October 19, Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests and Companions, Martyrs; Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 12:8-12**

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)  
2nd Collection—World Mission Collection

**Sunday, October 20, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
2nd Collection—World Mission Collection  
Children's Dismissal—10:30 a.m. Mass



**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

## Mass Intentions

**10/12, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— Jerry Pigniolo, Eric Hansen, Larry Avist, Sr., Oliver & Margaret Koch, Beverly Hebert, Amy Treadaway, Evelyn Mistich, Alexandra “Allie” Boteler, Francis Gainey, Eva Vujnovich, Paul Comeaux, Darrell Roy, Sr. Lynda Rink, SLW, Art & Dolores Branin, Patricia Caylor Williams, Rudy & Vickie Ledet, Collins “Pip” & Barbara Arcement, Lillian Kent

**10/13, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— For the Parishioners

**10/13, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**—Joyce Ehrhard, Adrijan Dekovic, Blaze St. Marie, Eva Vujnovich, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Carolyn Nielsen, Helen Abadie Morris, Gary Buras, Allyson Kirby, Oralia Arredondo, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Taryn Hanehan, Eugene D. Fagnano, Barbara Leopold Guey, Seth Chedville

**10/14, Monday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**10/15, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**10/15, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**— Darrell Roy

**10/16, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.**— Rudy & Vickie Ledet

**10/17, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.**— Blaze St. Marie

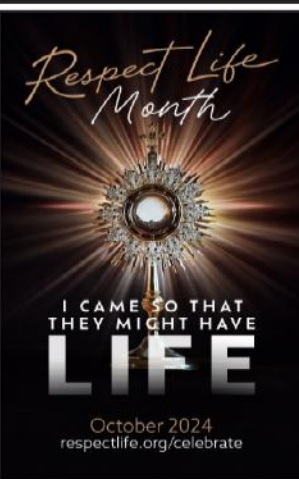
**10/18, Friday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**10/19, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**10/19, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— For the Parishioners

**10/20, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— Michael G. Tredinich, Edward J. & June Tredinich, Anne Fowler, Kenneth Pouwels, Sr., Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson

**10/20, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**— Russell A. Chabaud, Vincent & Belle Ladner, Blaze St. Marie, Eva Vujnovich, Francis Gainey, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Helen Abadie Morris, Gary Buras, Taryn Hanehan, Eugene D. Fagnano, Seth Chedville



### Respect Life Month Novena

October 22-30, 2024

This novena prays for the protection of human life, from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different pro-life prayer intention which is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. The novena can be downloaded at [www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month](http://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month). Copies can also be found on the information table in the back of church.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for 2024

October—For a Shared Mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.



OLPH School News

Students in the Marvel Studio recently celebrated National Johnny Appleseed Day by building apple orchards in the STEAM lab, making apple dumplings and plotting Johnny's course on our US map!





28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

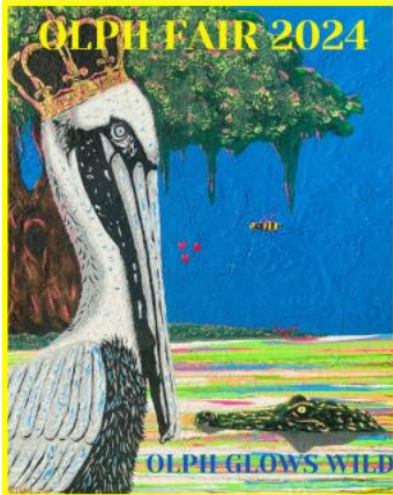
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Knelt Inherit Youth Loved Poor Treasure  
Possessions Camel Needle Astonished





# OLPH Parish Fair: Friday, Oct. 11—Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024



**OLPH 2024 FAIR**  
**OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup> - OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>**

<b>FRI. AARON FORET</b>	<b>8-11 PM</b>
<b>SAT. BOOT HILL</b>	<b>4-7 PM</b>
<b>KINGS OF NEON</b>	<b>8-11 PM</b>
<b>SUN. THE STRAYS</b>	<b>12-2:30 PM</b>
<b>PEYTON FALGOUT BAND</b>	<b>3-6:30 PM</b>
<b>FEATURING BAG OF DONUTS - UNMASKED!</b>	

**Food • Music • Carnival Rides**  
**8968 HWY. 23, BELLE CHASSE**



## Fair Royal Court!!

The following students sold more than \$15,000 in tickets! Thanks for all of your hard work!!

**King - Roman Gravolet**  
**Queen - Kaitlyn McCoy**  
**Prince - Braxton Huff**  
**Princess - Kamryn Thomas**

**Royal Court:**  
**Parker Young**  
**Avery Thibodeaux**  
**Georgia Guidry**  
**Remi Coludrovich**



## 50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS

Please stop by the Ticket/Gaming Booth at the Fair to buy your raffle tickets. *The drawing will be held on Sunday, October 13th around 6:45 p.m.*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Fair Raffle  
 October 11th - October 13th  
 BIG 50/50 Raffle  
 BIG 50/50 Drawing:  
 Sunday, October 13th, 2024  
 Winner Need to Not Be Present  
 Live Bands, Food and much more!  
 \$5/Ticket  
 Donations Benefit OLPH Church and School



## By His Poverty We are Filled

"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (Mk 10:21). Particularly in today's society, we tend to center ourselves around instant gratification. The newest trends that money can buy hold a constant allure since we can get them

off Amazon with just the click of a mouse. Yet most are afraid or ignorant of what to expect after death. Heavenly treasures await us if we are not first distracted by the false riches we may be exposed to here on Earth. Food, material possessions and earthly comforts are temporary, whereas reliance on Christ allows for eternal salvation.

Those who by worldly standards are considered first today may be last tomorrow at Christ's second coming. The Litany of Humility has always helped keep me grounded, reiterating the importance of loving others rather than seeking that love that we desire for ourselves. As Christians, we must ask ourselves if we take the time to tend to those most in need and live in service first to one other. We must recall the big picture, that as Christians we have the blessing to be able to spend eternity in the presence of God's great love, if we choose to emulate that love during the short time we have here on Earth. This is best demonstrated by the love Christ displays for us poor sinners by dying on the cross. Instead of seeking comfort and security we are called to depend on God always, following His example of love.

Ultimately, we must never be afraid to break open our hearts in front of others for Christ. The life of a Christian is often going to be messy. If we're not suffering alongside Christ, we are not giving our all to Him. We must take up our cross, and not hold back nor be ashamed. The Lord is worth so much more than the sum of our fears and doubts. And in the end, He does not demand much at all. Simply that we love Him with all our heart and love our neighbor as ourselves. By Alexis Dallara-Marsh

## ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

October 18th



It is generally believed that Luke was a gentile doctor. He was a good, kind man who came to know the Lord from the great apostle Paul.

After he had become a Christian, he sometimes traveled with Paul. Luke was a great help to him in spreading the faith. The Bible calls Luke "the beloved physician."

St. Luke is the author of two books in the Bible: the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Although he did not meet Jesus while the Lord was on this earth, he wanted to write about him for new converts. So he talked to those who had known Jesus. He wrote down all that they had seen the Lord do and heard him say. It is Luke who tells us some of the best-known stories about Jesus. Luke tells us the story of the first Christmas. He tells about Jesus lost in the Temple when he was twelve years old. He also tells us the story of Zaccheus the tax collector, who climbed the tree to see Jesus. Luke repeats for us the parables of the good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Luke also wrote the story of how the apostles began to teach the message of Jesus after he went back to heaven. It is in Luke's book, the Acts of the Apostles, that we learn how the Church began to grow and spread. St. Luke is the patron saint of painters and doctors. We are not sure when or where Luke died. He is one of the four evangelists, or Gospel writers. *Saints for Young Readers for every Day, Volume Two*

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

**Isaiah 53:10-11.** If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs and have a long life.

**Hebrews 4:14-16.** Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.

**Mark 10:35-45.** The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.



The flowers in church this week were donated in loving memory of: **Adrijan Dekovic**, requested by Jakov & DeeAnna Jurisic.

*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.*

  
Fill us with your love,  
O Lord,  
and we will sing for joy!

**The Punch Line**

The first reading is supposed to remind us of Solomon, choosing wisdom over wealth or power. In the scriptures wisdom means doing God's will in all things. As Jesus tried to tell the man in the gospel,

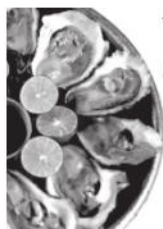
knowing and doing God's will is more precious than wealth, or even family!

So if wisdom is that good, why do so few seek it? Most of us have no problem doing God's will, as long as it is the same as ours. Or we do God's will if it is painless and convenient. Sometimes we are like that man in the gospel, desiring wisdom but not willing to pay for it.

Maybe our problem is that we don't trust God enough. The first reading, after praising wisdom more than health, wealth, and beauty, ends with a promise of "countless riches" while Jesus promises that the one who gives up everything will receive "a hundred times more." Because the rich man left in sorrow, he missed the punch line.

I can think of two ways to interpret that promise. One is that the more we give up for love of the Lord, the more we get back. The other is finding that what truly makes us happy is knowing we are loved by God and responding with love for others. Tom Schmidt

**Sponsor of the Week:**



**BEZ OYSTERS and SEAFOOD**

9582 Highway 23  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
**504•394•0903**

Nick Bezmalinovic (Owner)

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.



**KC's BLOOD DRIVE**  
**\*\*Critical Blood Shortage\*\***  
**All Blood Types Needed**



The KC's are hosting a blood drive with Ochsner Blood Bank on Sunday, October 20, 2024 from 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. [closed from 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.] at the KC Hall. **Please come out and give life by donating blood!!**

**\*\*All Ochsner Blood Donors will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win 2 Plaza Level Tickets to a New Orleans Saints Home Game\*\* See Flyer on Information Table in back of church for more information.**



*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, **Art & Dolores Branan**, requested by Dolly Roy; and **Barbara Leopold Guey**, requested by Joe & Roberta Leopold.

*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.*



**Do Something Beautiful for God**

October 14—Every moment of prayer, especially before our Lord in the tabernacle, is a sure, positive gain. The time we spend each day sitting with God is the most precious part of the whole day.

**Stewardship**  
*All things are possible with God*



Devote Time

Share Talent



Give Treasure

A way of life

**Church Financials  
Fiscal Year Ending  
June 30, 2024**

Total Income	\$ 749,209
Total Expense	\$ 707,120
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 42,089

*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](http://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-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time



## Straight Talk

by: Father William Maestri

### Importance of Humor

Beware! A new virus has been detected. NO, it's not foreign born. This invader is domestic and does damage to the brain's "higher functions". Specifically, it impairs the brain's HUMOR centers. In severe cases, the afflicted have lost the capacity to "laugh at oneself". At the same time, one takes oneself "too seriously". We might label this new virus: Humor Deficiency Syndrome (HDS). Its more common names are "sourpuss", "malcontent", "wet blanket", "kill joy", and even "crepehanger".

You might think I'm kidding. Never! I would never kid about the loss of the kidding capacity! The loss of a sense of humor is just as tragic, if not more so, than the loss of taste, touch, feel, smell, and sight. Needless to say (why say it then?), this is no laughing matter!

If you doubt its existence, just spend a few minutes in the grocery store, drive on the highway at "rush hour", and for the real skeptics, indulge in viewing your favorite cable talk show. Any of these will convince the most hardened agnostic of HDS's existence: the grocery store is the jungle where only those with the sharpest elbows survive (Darwin); only the suicidal dare drive without a rosary and checking the auto and life insurance policies, and watching cable talk-shows, gladiators 2.0, is to risk becoming a Prozac pill popper. No, this is no time for humor! It's time for our Lenten ashes and sack cloth; for tragedy, lamentation, and the funeral bell. Resurrect Calvin and bury G.K. Chesterton.

In the past several decades, mental health professionals have produced a number of studies correlating a sense of humor with physical and mental well-being. For example, researchers G. Galloway and A. Cropley (HUMOR, 1999), examined "numerous empirical studies [which] indicate that, in general, humor can beneficially influence mental health. Specifically, it has been observed that humor as a response is associated with a reduction in some existing mental health problems...a sense of humor appears to moderate the perceived intensity of negative life events". What are the benefits of humor? Web MD (2009), lists the following: organ stimulation, stress relief, rapid blood circulation which takes away tension and yields calmness, improved immune system, pain relief, and improvement in one's coping ability by connecting with others for support.

In addition to the mental and physical benefits of humor, it is a grace-filled aid to SANCTITY (holiness). Both mental health professionals and spiritual directors share common ground in finding a developed sense of humor present in those who engage life with a hopeful outlook, a generous spirit of giving, and a keen sense of discerning when humor hurts or heals. (Dan Brennan, M.D. 2023). There is a prudent difference between laughing at, as opposed to laughing with others.

St. Lawrence the Martyr (225-258 AD), is honored as the "Patron Saint of Comedians". And with good reason. Lawrence was summoned to Rome and ordered to bring all the Church's wealth as tribute to the Emperor Valerian. Lawrence requested three days to complete the demand. During that time, he gathered the poor, sick and all those considered of no account. When he returned, Lawrence said to the Prefect, "This is the Church's treasure...the Church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor." Lacking a sense of humor, the Prefect ordered Lawrence to be roasted "little by little" over a flaming grill. At one point, Lawrence said to the "grill master", "I am well done on this side. You can turn me over." All the while he continued to pray for the conversion of Rome. Finally, Lawrence said, "It is cooked enough now". He died a martyr's death in 258 AD.

Centuries later, St. Thomas More (1478-1535), who would be beheaded by King Henry VIII for his refusal to accept Henry as head of the Church of England, for refusing to support the King's divorce of Catherine and subsequent "marriage" to Anne Boleyn. St. Thomas left behind the following "Prayer for Good Humor": "Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it.... Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor...the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy."

Recently, Pope Francis hosted a gathering of comedians from around the world. During the festivities, the Pope quoted from his "Apostolic Letter", *Gaudete et exultate*: "...the saints are joyful and full of good humour. Though completely realistic, they radiate a positive and hopeful spirit."

How could WE be anything but joyful, hopeful, and life affirming? After all, on that first Easter evening, unto those first Easter disciples, locked behind the doors of fear, Jesus appears "and said to them 'Peace be with you'.... The disciples rejoiced..." (Jn 20:19-23).

Through our modern doors of fear once again Jesus is present and says, "have peace in me...take courage, I have conquered the world." (Jn 16:23).



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