Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz

JULY 8, 2018

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.”

Mk 6:4

This Sunday’s 2nd Collection
PASTORAL SOLIDARITY FUND—AFRICA

Next Sunday’s 2nd Collection
MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE

Next weekend the second collection will benefit the Bánica Mission. Since 1991, the Arlington Diocese has provided clergy to two parishes in the rural highlands of the Dominican Republic. The two parishes, in the neighboring towns of Bánica and Pedro Santana on the Haitian border, minister to over 13,000 souls, most of whom live in extreme poverty. Your generosity will allow the diocese to continue to provide spiritual and material assistance to those who need it most. For more information on how you can support the Bánica Mission, go to: http://www.arlingtonmissions.org/banica-mission/
THE 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Ez 2:2-5; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6
Next weekend’s Readings: (15th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-10; Mk 6:7-13

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US
Please pray for:
Louise Aust, Elizabeth Ball, Suri Barahona, Ronald Bashian, Francis Bilgara, Precious Bowens, April Bras- sard, Lynne Burgh, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claure, Jeff Cory, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Adrienne DiCerbo, Yolanda Gregorio, Ernest Donatto, Mike Dorsey, Irene Fitzpatrick, Yevette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Karen Gammache, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Carmen Gonzalez, the Harris Family, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Margaret Hodges, Beatriz Uribe Jaramillo, Rodrigo Jaramillo, Lillian Jay, Pat Johnson, Tom Kenefake, Cindy Kernick, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, Maria Linares, Lidia Montero Lopez, Mary Helen Madden, Kathy Martin, Wil McBride, Stefan McGui gan, Olga MacKenzie, Martha Gladys Medina, Roberto Méndez, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Bob Morsch es, Clem Munno, Chelsea Murray, Indira Murillo, B ruce Niligis, Nicholas, Denise Noland, Patricia Ogden, Mary Rose Orecchio, Delfima Pacheco-Choque, Roy Paco, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Patrick, Catherine Peake, Paul Ramirez, Maddie Respicio-Cabatic, Wally Reyes, Michael Rodgers, Maritza Roldan, Carol yn Santos, Susan Savage, Jane Shepard, Janet Shirvanian, Mary Shookhoff, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Eva Souza, Paul Steinmetz, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Mary Terlep, Rose Trujillo, Fr. Tom Tunney, Nancy Urquizo, Step hen Utley, Kate Witkowski, Mary Woods, Claudia Zapata.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JUL 13
5:30 pm — for Mary Doyle (D) by Shannon Doyle
8 am — for the Parish
9:30 am — for Michael Donlan (D) by Ken & Mary Moffett
11:15 am — for Patricia Kelly Finnegan (D) by Dolores Leckey
1 pm — for Souls in Purgatory (D) by Myriam Montoya
6 pm — for Agnes Cherestal (D) by her Children
Mon. 12:00 noon — for Vacation Bible School Teachers (L)
by Bonnie Czekanski
Wed. 12:00 noon — for Evelyn Mercantini (D)
by John Mercantini

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:
Sunday Collection: $11,937
Peter’s Pence: $3,012
Faith Direct (June Average): $10,054

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
OLQP ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
Sunday, September 16, 1-5 pm, Barcroft Park

THEOLOGY ON TAP – Monday, July 9, 7:00 PM
On Monday, July 9, at 7:00 pm, join fellow parishioners for a lively and interesting discussion of topics related to our faith in a relaxed setting at Lost Dog Café (2920 Columbia Pike, Arlington). Free underground parking is available off Walter Reed Dr., (use steps or elevator to exit to Walter Reed Dr., and then walk to Columbia Pike).

CHAPELS SCHOOLS OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH
The Sisters of Loretto provided a grant of $7,500.00 to help support three of the chapel schools of St. Joseph parish! These schools educate 905 students from kindergarten-6th grade. Students that graduate from the chapel schools can go to secondary school in Medor. As in all of Haiti, the parents of St. Joseph Parish pay tuition for their children to attend school. Tuition is $60 US per year for Medor’s secondary school, $30 for Medor’s primary school, and $6 for each of the three chapel schools. Families pay what they can, and the children whose families cannot afford to pay receive scholarships. Check out Dr. Sue’s blog on Medor at marysusancarlson.tumblr.com
Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Haiti.

BISHOP’S LENTEN APPEAL (BLA) PLEDGES - Thank you to everyone who pledged to the BLA! This appeal funds diocesan Vocations, Youth Ministry, Catholic Schools, Catholic Charities, Religious Education programs as well as many others. If you made a pledge that is still being paid, you should be receiving monthly reminder statements. You also may go online to make a payment at www.arlingtondiocese.org. For questions, please call the BLA office at 703-841-2570.

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW AT OLQP EXPERIENCING A LOSS or challenging situation in your life...such as serious illness, loss of a loved one, loneliness, or some other hurtful situation? If so, please contact our Stephen Ministry, or if this concerns your friend, have them contact our Stephen Ministry. Call Joan Brown at 703-971-2975 or email jmbrown2587@msn.com.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH
CONGRATULATIONS!
Elizabeth Ferrante and Tim Murphy
Married Saturday, July 7.

July 7-8 2018, The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
JUST A THOUGHT OR TWO...
In today’s Gospel Jesus goes home and is not well received by his neighbors and boyhood friends, even though large crowds from other towns and villages followed him around and he was causing a great commotion throughout the region by his preaching and the miracles he worked. In spite of the fact that his hometown people were “astonished” by his words...they did not believe in him...perhaps their familiarity with Jesus and his family blinded them to his awesome power...and their lack of faith prevented Jesus from working great miracles in their presence. Aware of their lack of acceptance of him, Jesus acknowledged that a prophet is seldom if ever accepted in his/her home town. Perhaps it was jealousy or fear that kept Jesus’ neighbors and friends from accepting and acknowledging his power and true identity. Often enough our own insecurities prevent us from rejoicing in the successes of our family and friends...how sad when we cannot rejoice in and raise up the prophets in our midst...perhaps because they challenge us to see things with new eyes...perhaps it is because they challenge us to change how we live our lives! Being a true disciple of Jesus means that we are all called to live prophetic lives, witnessing to the Gospel through our words and actions...and we, like Jesus, will be rejected in some places by those who refuse the challenge of living a Gospel centered life. But we need not worry for like God told Paul...”my Grace is sufficient for you”! So we know that God’s grace is indeed sufficient for us to stand up to the powers that be and demand just and fair immigration reform, NOW! Our discipleship calls us to be the prophetic voices in the midst of this appalling manmade humanitarian crisis! Let us continue to speak out and to act to bring about a humane and just immigration policy and an end to all the detentions and turning away of lawful asylum seekers. Let us welcome the stranger among us as the sisters and brothers they are.
Blessings,
Fr. Tim

DID YOU KNOW?...Our Lady Queen of Peace offers eGiving through Faith Direct, a secure, on-line giving portal. Make your weekly contribution effortlessly through a checking account or with your credit card. Consider enrolling in eGiving through Faith Direct so that your gift can reach us even when you cannot. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: VA271. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

Carpenter’s Shelter Supper – Thursday, July 19
This month’s menu is beef stew with vegetables, vegetable stew, French/Italian bread, salad and dessert. Please sign up at the board in back of church. Donations can be dropped off at the parish office in advance (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30) or delivered to Fr. Ray Hall on July 19 between 4 and 4:45. Thanks for helping! Questions, contact Mary Resnick: mary.resnick@gmail.com

Just$ -- Giant, Safeway and Shoppers cards are available for your grocery shopping. This is Food Collection Sunday. If you were unable to bring food in support of the OLQP Food Pantry, you can purchase and donate a Just$ card so the Pantry can continue supplementing the food needs of almost 200 families in our community. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Matthew 25
Thank you for your patience during our recent and lengthy time without an elevator during which our capacity to receive donations was severely limited. Now we want to welcome your gently used household and clothing donations (Spring/Summer please). Please fill the bins outside or drop off during store hours, Wednesday 9-12, Thursday, 12-3, Saturday and Sunday 9-12. For questions, please call or text Meade Hanna at 703-850-2987.

Salt--Social Action Linking Together
SALT is a faith-based network of social justice advocates in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable. SALT advocates for justice in Virginia, striving to bring the social and economic justice teachings rooted in Sacred Scripture and natural law to bear on public policy and legislation, especially at the State level. SALT’s active membership totals more than 1300 persons of faith. For more information, please contact John Horejsi: 703-255-7074, jhorejsi@cox.net

Volunteer Opportunity at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception -- Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith and extend that gift to others through your personal witness and service to the Church? We invite you to become a Docent (Tour Guide) or Tour Desk Receptionist at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Northeast Washington D.C. Hours and days are flexible and training will be provided. Anyone interested should please contact Dee Steel, Director of Visitor Services, at 202-526-8300, ext.111, or dsteel@bnsc.org

Eco Tip: In summer plan to do energy heavy chores like laundry, dishes, vacuuming and cooking in off peak hours (evening). This will cut your energy bill and eliminate unnecessary release of heat.
Dispatch from a parish on the El Paso-Juárez border

by Arturo J. Bañuelas

El Paso, Texas — The present crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border highlights the inhumane and cruel anti-immigrant policies of our government. It also summons us to consider the fashioning of the future of American life. The very soul of our country is at stake, and the way we respond morally to the immigrant situation in our nation will determine its future. As the border goes, so does the nation.

Our border city of El Paso, Texas, has long been a testing ground for new tactics in the decades-long strategy to criminalize migrants and militarize the U.S. border with Mexico. In fact, the Hope Border Institute, a Catholic social justice organization, has documented the practice of separating children from parents in El Paso well before it was made official policy by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The city is accustomed to the behemoth network of immigration enforcement and detention that includes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (immigration court), multiple detention centers and a plethora of private contractors. This is and has been our daily reality for quite some time.

Jesus looks different from a border perspective. Daily living in solidarity with immigrant communities challenges racially motivated assumptions about immigrants coming into our country. The sharing of their stories offers a corrective to negative, dehumanizing portrayals perpetuated about asylum seekers, Dreamers, and families escaping hunger, violence, poverty and death threats.

To be in solidarity with immigrant communities is to be in solidarity with Jesus who is present in the immigrant among us. Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew reminds us of the obligation to see Jesus in the most vulnerable and respond accordingly. “I was a stranger and you welcomed me,” confronts us with the stark reality of the plight of our immigrant brothers and sisters and the expectation of action.

El Paso oscillates between intense moments of hopeful resistance and long periods of dry weariness, but June 2018 was different. The events of late May and early June precipitated a statement from the Diocese of El Paso:

In recent weeks, our border communities have witnessed several actions that gravely trouble the Christian conscience. The bridges that unite us to our sister city of Ciudad Juárez have been converted into steel gates against families fleeing for their lives. We have heard the crying of children separated from mothers and fathers. Our Tornillo port of entry will soon be transformed into the likes of a child refugee camp. The blood of Claudia Patricia Gómez González continues to cry out to heaven and question us — why? The news of the month’s headlines was and is the stuff of daily life in our border city.

By the beginning of the month, the government had begun to regularly post agents in the middle of the international border crossings between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The purpose was to profile Central Americans and prevent them from stepping into the United States to make legal asylum claims.

Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House, a local shelter for refugees and asylum seekers, began accompanying individual families over the bridge to shame agents into accepting them. The bridges that signaled our bi-national unity were being turned into obstacles, “steel gates” preventing access to security for “families fleeing for their lives.”

In our parish each Sunday, we typically host at Mass twenty to thirty immigrant teenagers from local detention shelters. Our immigrant ministry offers these kids a place to gather after the liturgy to enjoy great food, stories and arts and crafts. One Sunday in June, instead of teens, we welcomed little children who had been separated from their parents.

It was painful and heartbreaking to be in the company of children so young who did not know where their parents were.

As a community, we cried and prayed with a collective lump in our throats during our celebration of the Eucharist. Afterwards everyone in the parish wanted to take the children home with them. The presence of these most vulnerable youth gave a special meaning to our worship, calling us to take our anger and move beyond it in order to transform our solidarity into political action for the good of these children, their families and ultimately for our nation. We had heard the cries of the children separated from their families.

On Thursday, June 14, the Trump administration announced the opening of a tent complex in Tornillo, less than an hour east of El Paso. By the weekend, Tornillo was home to hundreds of immigrant children from Central America. The tent complex was built to house unaccompanied minors, “engineered by an administration which had made the separation of families both a practice and policy at the borders.” That Sunday, Father’s Day, El Pasoans marched to the Tornillo camp in protest.

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Two days later they mobilized again and marched on the Immigration Customs and Enforcement Processing Center demonstrating their outrage at the separation of families.

Later that week, mayors from across the country came to Tornillo to demand immediate reunification of separated families. By the end of the week, healthcare professionals had joined El Pasoans as had people of good will from places in Alaska, California, Rhode Island and even Canada. The world was taking notice of the cruel, manufactured humanitarian crisis at the border.

President Trump bowed to pressure and rescinded his policy of separating families. But he substituted one cruelty for another: Now the U.S. government will keep families together by incarcerating entire families. On June 30, El Pasoans marched once again, this time in solidarity with people in cities nationwide at Families Belong Together rallies. They marched to denounce the “zero tolerance” policy, to protest the cruelty of family detention and the announcement that thousands of immigrants would be detained within the confines of the local military base. They marched to the international bridges to reclaim them as common patrimony, as a symbol of the American Dream, as the modern day Ellis Island that they are.

There are moments when time seems to slow down and become concentrated, disclosing unseen truths. It remains to be seen whether border communities will maintain the intensity of the protests that have marked the month of June 2018, or whether national outrage will result in reunited families and in the enactment of humane and just immigration reform. In the recent whirlwind of activity, however, Americans across the country are discovering something El Pasoans have always known — immigrant children are our children! Our destinies are linked, and God can tear down borders faster than humans can build them.

[ Monsignor Arturo J. Bañuelas is currently the pastor of St. Mark’s Parish in the diocese of El Paso, Texas. A Latino theologian and founder and chair of the HOPE Border Institute, he is widely recognized and honored for his advocacy and work on issues of migration and justice at the border. This article was written in collaboration with Dylan Corbett, the founding director of the HOPE Border Institute.]