

OLQP MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church is dedicated to witnessing the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46. Our mission is to nurture the spirit and to encourage the potential of those we serve through liturgical celebration, educational endeavors and social ministries. The parish will continue to identify with its origin as a Black parish. As a multi-ethnic congregation we will seek to promote racial harmony and social justice. While our primary focus is within the immediate community, we will also work to provide for the well-being of the down-trodden everywhere. In this we strive for our parish community to be a caring, sharing, and loving family.

Welcome to OLQP Catholic Church!
¡Bienvenidos a OLQP Iglesia Católica!

Contact / Contacto:

2700 19th St S, Arlington VA 22204
703-979-5580, office@olqpva.org

Website / sitioweb: olqpva.org

Masses / Misas:

Weekdays / Días laborables:

Mon-Fri, 12pm / lunes a viernes 12pm

Weekend Mass Schedule /

Horario de misas de fin de semana:

Saturday Vigil — 5:30pm

Misa de vigilia sábados - 5:30 pm

Sundays — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am,

1:00pm (Spanish) & 6:00pm (Young Adult)

Domingos - 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,

1:00 pm (español), y 6:00 pm (Misa de jóvenes adultos)

Misal Palabra y Eucaristía / Word & Eucharist Missalette

Today's readings can be found on page 170 of the Word & Eucharist missalette.

Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 171 en el misal Palabra y Eucaristía.

DECLARACIÓN DE MISIÓN DE OLQP

La parroquia de la iglesia católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dedica a dar testimonio de las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, especialmente el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25:21-46. Nuestra misión es nutrir el espíritu y alentar el potencial de aquellos a quienes servimos a través de la celebración litúrgica, labores educativas y ministerios sociales. La parroquia continuará identificándose con su origen como una comunidad afro-americana, pero reflejando una congregación multi-étnica y continuará promoviendo la armonía racial y la justicia social. Si bien es cierto que nuestro enfoque principal es la vecindad comunitaria, continuaremos trabajando para proveer por el bienestar de los más necesitados en general. Es así como nos esforzamos para hacer de nuestra comunidad parroquial una familia que comparte y se preocupa por sus miembros.



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

February 29-March 1, 2020

The First Sunday of Lent

The diocese has suggested that we offer everyone the option to refrain from hand-holding during the Our Father and handshaking during the Sign of Peace now that we are in the height of the flu season. The diocese also suggested that we suspend the use of a common chalice during Communion. We do these things out of an abundance of caution and ask that you not take offense should others choose to refrain.

If you have symptoms of influenza please refrain from attending Mass and other parish activities for the duration of your illness and up to 24 hours after symptoms abate.

La diócesis ha sugerido que ofrezcamos a todos la opción de abstenerse de tomarse de la mano durante el Padre Nuestro y de dar la mano durante el rito de la paz ahora que estamos en el auge de la temporada de gripe. También ha sugerido que suspendamos el uso del cáliz común durante la Comunión. Son medidas preventivas y le pedimos que no se ofenda si otros optan por abstenerse. Si tiene síntomas de influenza, evite asistir a Misa y otras actividades parroquiales mientras dure su enfermedad y hasta 24 horas después de que los síntomas hayan disminuido.

Not by bread alone are you to live but by every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4



No solo de pan vivirá el hombre, sino de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios

Mateo 4:4

THIS WEEKEND'S 2ND COLLECTION:
BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS

LA SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA :
MISIONES DE PERSONAS NEGRAS E INDÍGENAS

NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ
29 de febrero– 1 de marzo 2020
El primer domingo de cuaresma

***We are pleased to offer this new bilingual format giving witness to our ever-present Hispanic population.
Nos place ofrecer este nuevo formato bilingüe que da testimonio de nuestra siempre presente población hispana.***

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION /
PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL**

Baptism / Bautizo:

Please email Baptism Coordinator Cecilia Lopez Oetgen,
clopez@olqpva.org.

Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los
bautizos, Cecilia López Oetgen, clopez@olqpva.org.

Marriage Preparation/ Preparación para el matrimonio:

Please contact the parish office at least six months
before wedding date to complete requirements.

Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia seis meses antes
de su matrimonio para completar todos los requisitos.

Reconciliation / Reconciliación—Confesión:

Sat, 4:45-5:15 pm & by appointment.

Los sábados: 4:45 - 5:15 pm. y por cita previa.

**SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH /
VIDA SACRAMENTAL DE LA PARROQUIA**

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$9,441

Faith Direct (February Average /
promedio del mes de febrero): \$9,959

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 (22A); Romans 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Génesis 2,7-9; 3,1-7 (22A); Romanos 5,12, 17-19; Mateo 4,1-11

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Genesis 12:1-4A (25A); 2 Timothy 1:8B-10; Matthew 17:1-9
Génesis 12,1-4A (25A); 2 Timoteo 1,8B-10; Mateo 17,1-9

MASS INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 6

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS

29 DE FEBRERO-6 DE MARZO

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

5:30 pm— for Roberto Cadag (D) by the Luna Family

8 am— for the Parish

9:30 am—for Blanche Bela Mukerjee (D) by Rita Dias

11:15 am— In Thanksgiving for Rita Dias (L) by Jude Dias

1 pm— por Juanan Laguna (D) de Milagros Lovo y Familia

6 pm— for the Parish

Mon. 12:00 noon— for Elvira Cabling (D) by the Cajulis Family

Tues. 12:00 noon— for Eddie Albert Lalas (D) by the Cajulis Family

Wed. 12:00 noon— for Lila Pronczuk (D) by her Husband & Family

Thu. 12 noon— for the Parish

Fri. 6 pm— In Thanksgiving for Jude Dias (L) by Jude Dias

Bulletin Deadline / Plazo para el boletín Wednesday / miércoles —9 AM office@olqpva.org

OLQP PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL DE LA PARROQUIA

Pastor / Párroco: **Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp**, thickey@olqpva.org

Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado: **Fr. Martin Vu, CSSp**, mvu@olqpva.org

Ministerio Latino: **Fr. Joseph Nangle, OFM**, j.nangleofm@yahoo.com

Deacon / Diácono: **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org (@ajremedios) on Twitter

Parish Office / Oficina parroquial

Business Manager / Gerente de Negocios: **Christina Kozyn**, ckozyn@olqpva.org

Receptionist / Enlace Hispano (bilingüe): **Thelma Molina**, tmolina@olqpva.org

Administrative Support / Asistentes Administrativas: **Jeannette Gantz Daly**, jgantz Daly@olqpva.org, **Michele Chang**, mchang@olqpva.org

Ministry Center / Centro de Ministerios

Social Justice & Outreach Minister / Ministro de Justicia Social y Acercamiento (bilingüe): **Sally Díaz-Wells**, sdiazwells@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe): **Alex Hernández**, ahernandez@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Director Assistant / Asistente del Director de Formación de Fe: **Christian Ruf**, cruf@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Assistant / Apoyo, Departamento de Formación de Fe (bilingüe): **Ligia Loza**, ligiaxms@gmail.com,

Cecilia López, clopez@olqpva.org

Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos: **Rebecca Grant Jenkins**, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

Maintenance Supervisor / Supervisor de Mantenimiento: **Michael Hill**, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

Evening Custodian / Conserje nocturno: **Mel Cabrera**, mcabrera@olqpva.org

Maintenance Department Support / Apoyo, Departamento de Mantenimiento (bilingüe): **Zulema Ramallo, Isabel Staff, Wayne Klopfenstein**

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US /

NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR: Lousie Aust, Suri Barahona, Ronald Bashian, Gene Bétit, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Marty Butner Covington, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Jeff Cory, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiCerbo, Ernest Donatto, Patricia "Pat" Dowd, Irene Fitzpatrick, Deborah Forczek, Yvette Francois, Iva Futrell, Karen Gammache, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Fred Gladbach, Yolanda Gregorio, the Harris Family, Sally Harrs, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Margaret Hodges, Beatriz Uribe Jaramillo, Lillian Jay, Pat Johnson, Caecilie Jones, Sharon Jourdan, Cindy Kernick, Sally Krahn, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, Bertie Leahy, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Eileen Melia, Roberto Méndez, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrissey, Bob Morsches, Chelsea Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Bruyce Niligis, Julie O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Michelle O'Keefe, Delfima Pacheco-Choque, Roy Paco, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Paul Ramirez, Maddie Respicio-Cabatic, Wally Reyes, Michael Rodgers, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Susan Savage, Jane Shepard, Janet Shirvanian, Mary Shookhoff, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Eva Souza, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Mary Terlep, Rose Trujillo, Fr. Tom Tunney, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Utley, Kate Witkowski, Mary Woods, Claudia Zapata, Kate Zopp.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY /

NORMAS ANTE LA INCLEMENCIA DEL CLIMA

Evening and weekend activities (except scheduled Masses): OLQP follows the decision of Arlington Public Schools for cancellation of evening and weekend activities. Those traveling outside the local school district should use their best judgment. For the most up-to-date information for Arlington Public Schools, please call 1-866-322-4277 or visit www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/

Parish Office Staff and Weekday Activities, 8am-5pm: Office and weekday activities follow the decision of the Federal Government. Tune in to your local radio and tv stations for updated information or visit www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/

Masses: The decision to cancel Masses within the Diocese of Arlington is made by Bishop Burbidge and broadcast on local radio and tv stations.

Las actividades nocturnas y de fin de semana (con excepción de las misas programadas): OLQP sigue la decisión de las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington para la cancelación de actividades nocturnas y de fin de semana. Las personas que estuvieran fuera del sistema escolar local deben utilizar su mejor juicio. Para obtener la información más actualizada sobre las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington, por favor llame al 1-866-322-4277 o visite www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/

Personal de la Oficina Parroquial y Actividades de Días Laborables, 8am-5pm: Las actividades de la Oficina y del día siguen la decisión del Gobierno Federal. Sintonice las emisoras de radio y televisión locales para obtener información actualizada o visite www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/.

Misas: La decisión de cancelar las misas dentro de la Diócesis de Arlington es hecha por el obispo Loverde y transmitida por las estaciones de radio y televisión locales.

***Translated notices that are of interest to the entire community.
Noticias traducidas que son de interés para toda la comunidad.***

THE ENDURING CALL TO LOVE - Join Bishop Michael Burbidge and Archbishop Wilton Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, who will be the principal Mass celebrant and keynote speaker of the Conference. This year's Conference asks us to confront the sin of racism in ourselves and in our society, and examines the response of our United States Bishops in their pastoral letter, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*. Nativity Catholic Church (6400 Nativity Lane, Burke), 5:00pm Mass Saturday, March 14 followed by dinner, keynote and panel. To register, please email peace@arlingtondiocese.org with the first and last name of each participant, deadline March 9.

EL LLAMADO IMPERECEDERO AL AMOR - Únase al Obispo Michael Burbidge y al Arzobispo Wilton Gregory de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, DC, quien va a ser el celebrante principal de la Misa y el orador principal de la Conferencia. La Conferencia de este año nos pide que le hagamos frente al pecado del racismo en nosotros y en nuestra sociedad y examina la respuesta de los Obispos de los EE.UU. en su carta pastoral, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love (Abran de par en par nuestros corazones: la llamada duradera al amor)*. Tendrá lugar en la iglesia católica Nativity (6400 Nativity Lane, Burke). Misa a las 5:00 pm el sábado, 14 de marzo seguida por una comida, el orador principal y un panel de discusión. Para inscribirse, por favor mande un correo electrónico a peace@arlingtondiocese.org con el nombre y apellido de cada participante. La fecha límite es el 9 de marzo.

PARISH ADVISORY BOARD – ELECTIONS - The Parish Advisory Board Election process is this weekend, February 22/23. Voting will occur at all Masses with paper ballots the weekend of February 29 and March 1. We will offer an online ballot in addition to paper ballots at all masses. The online ballot will be open from February 22 at 5:00pm through March 1 at 7:30pm. The link for the online ballot will be available at www.olqpva.org or use the QR code below with your smartphone. Parishioners are encouraged to utilize only one voting option of their choosing. Please contact Parish Advisory Board Chairperson Jennifer Vigarío with any questions at jmvgario@gmail.com.

ELECCIONES DE LA JUNTA CONSULTORA DE LA PARROQUIA
El proceso de las elecciones de la Junta Consultora de la parroquia es este fin de semana, del 22 y el 23 de febrero. La votación se llevará a cabo en todas las Misas con papeletas de papel el fin de semana del 29 de febrero y el 1ro de marzo. Ofreceremos una papeleta en línea además de la papeleta de papel en todas las Misas. La papeleta en línea estará disponible desde el 22 de febrero a las 5:00pm hasta el 1ro de marzo a las 7:30pm. El enlace para la papeleta en línea estará disponible en la página web www.olqpva.org o use el código QR abajo con su teléfono inteligente. Se anima a los feligreses a que solo usen una opción para votar. Por favor contacte a Jennifer Vigarío, quien preside la Junta Consultora de la Parroquia si tiene alguna pregunta: jmvgario@gmail.com.



2020 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL
STEADFAST IN FAITH AND JOYFUL IN HOPE

The Bishop's Lenten Appeal is critical to our diocesan needs and we are asking every household in our parish to support this appeal to the extent that they are able. The BLA funds many programs, services and ministries that serve people in need and furthers the Gospel mission of Jesus Christ in our diocese. Let us join together to do the Lord's work – works that touch the lives and souls of thousands of people. Thank you!

MINKISI MINISTRY invites you to their Lenten scripture prayer session at 7pm, Mon., Mar. 2, in the Discussion Room/Parish Office. Tyra Newman will lead the meditation on Psalm 147:3. For more info, contact Cecilia, jisaac3@verizon.net or phone 703-979-5389.

HAITI EASTER DRIVE

"Hunger is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of justice."

Jacques Diouf, Director of the Food and Agricultural Organization.
Nowhere are these words truer than in Haiti, where food insecurity is a major challenge. 3,000 students in Medor rely on the school lunch program supported by our parish and the World Food Program. For many of them, this meal is the only one they are guaranteed every day. It costs \$4 to provide one month of school lunches for one Medor student; \$40 provides school lunches for one student for an entire school year. During Lent, consider skipping a single meal out and donate that money for our Medor family? It would go a long way in providing meals for the children. We urge everyone to remember that hunger is part of every day life for many of our brothers and sisters in Medor. Helping address this challenge is not an act of charity, but one of justice. Our prayers and donations can help lessen hunger in St. Joseph's parish in Haiti.

CRS RICE BOWL – During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we encounter our neighbors, near and far, who may be hungry. Reflect on the importance of family in your life and connect with families worldwide. Put a Rice Bowl on your table – try the recipes – think outside the box. You may find creative sacrifices to generate contributions. English and Spanish Bowls are available at the back of church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLW) - CLW takes place during three of the Sunday Mass options (9:30am, 11:15am, and 1:00pm in Spanish). Children ages 4-10 are invited to listen and reflect on the Sunday Gospel in child friendly language. The children leave the main sanctuary and proceed to our Children's Chapel where they experience the Gospel, Profession of Faith, and General Intercessions before returning for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. CLW is led by a team of fantastic teen leaders!

OLQP HOLY HOUR

4th Monday of the Month

Join us March 23 at 8pm for readings and silent prayer

PETICIÓN CUARESMA DEL OBISPO DE 2020
FIRMES EN LA FE Y ALEGRES EN LA ESPERANZA

La Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo está en plena marcha y pedimos a cada familia de nuestra parroquia que la apoye en la medida de sus posibilidades. La Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo financia muchos programas, servicios y ministerios que están destinados a las personas necesitadas y llevan adelante la misión evangelizadora de Jesucristo en nuestra diócesis. Unámonos para realizar las obras del Señor, obras que tocan la vida y el alma de miles de personas en nuestra diócesis. ¡Gracias!

EL MINISTERIO MINKISI la/lo invita a su sesión de oración bíblica de cuaresma a las 7pm, el lunes, 2 de marzo en el salón de discusión/oficina parroquial. Tyra Newman dirigirá la meditación del Salmo 147:3. Contactar para Cecilia Braveboy información, jisaac3@verizon.net o 703-979-5389.

CAMPAÑA CUARESMA PRO HAITÍ

"El hambre no es cuestión de caridad. Es cuestión de justicia".

Jacques Diouf, Director de la Organización de alimento y agricultura.
No hay lugar donde estas palabras sean más ciertas que en Haití, donde la inseguridad alimenticia es un reto enorme. En Medor 3,000 estudiantes dependen del programa de almuerzo escolar que nuestra parroquia y el World Food Program apoyan. Para muchos de ellos, esta comida es la única que tienen garantizada a diario. Proveer un mes de almuerzos escolares para un estudiante cuesta \$4. Proveer un año de almuerzos escolares para un estudiante cuesta \$40. Durante la Cuaresma, considere abstenerse de una comida fuera de la casa y done ese dinero para nuestra familia de Medor. Le urgimos a todos que recuerden que el hambre es parte de la vida diaria para muchos de nuestras hermanas y hermanos en Medor. Ayudar a abordar este reto no solo es un acto de caridad, sino uno de justicia. Nuestras oraciones y donaciones pueden ayudar a aliviar el hambre en la parroquia de St. Joseph en Haití.

CAMPAÑA DE CRS PLATO DE ARROZ – Durante los 40 días de Cuaresma, como compañeros/as en la jornada, encontramos a nuestros prójimos, cerca y lejos, que puede que tengan hambre. Reflexione sobre la importancia de la familia en su vida y conéctese con familias por todo el mundo. Ponga un Plato de Arroz en su mesa – pruebe las recetas – piense con originalidad. Puede que encuentre que los sacrificios creativos generan contribuciones. Platos de Arroz en español y en inglés están disponibles en la parte de atrás de la iglesia.

LITURGIA DE LA PALABRA PARA NIÑOS - La Liturgia de la Palabra para Niños (CLW, por sus siglas en inglés) se lleva a cabo durante tres de las Misas de los domingos (9:30am, 11:15am y 1:00pm en español). Se invita a los niños entre los 4-10 años a escuchar y reflexionar sobre el Evangelio del domingo en un lenguaje apropiado para ellos. Los niños salen del santuario principal y proceden a la capilla de niños donde experimentan el Evangelio, la Profesión de fe y las intercesiones generales antes de volver para la Liturgia de la Eucaristía. ¡Un equipo fantástico de adolescentes está a cargo del CLW!

HORA SANTA EN OLQP

4to lunes del mes

Únase a nosotros el 23 de marzo a las 8pm para lecturas y oración en silencio.

JUST A THOUGHT OR TWO... In this Sunday's Gospel we encounter Jesus being tempted by the devil with temptations to power, fame and pride. Some Scripture scholars have argued that it was through his experience of forty days of fasting and prayer in the desert that Jesus came to a deeper understanding of his true identity and his mission. The desert or the "wilderness" is, in the history of the people of Israel, a place of encounter with God. As we begin Lent it is appropriate for us to reflect a bit on our own lives, our own desert experiences and our own temptations, our own encounters with God. Most all of us, as humans, are tempted by pride, arrogance, selfishness, anger and greed...the real question is whether or not we give in to those temptations. For some, who give in, they are led to disgraceful acts of greed and ego with catastrophic results. All we need to do is to read the headlines in the newspapers or listen to the nightly news...we know who they are and are able to judge the seriousness of their acts. For most of us, our sins are somewhat more contained...a white lie here and there...perhaps a small theft once in a while...a few carelessly chosen harsh words that wound. Most of us are basically good people, trying to live as God has calls us to live. In the recesses of our hearts we know we've been tempted...we've seen people surrender to their baser desires...enticed by money, recognition, or power to take advantage of situations or people, neglect their responsibilities towards others, or treated others with disregard and disrespect. As we reflect on our own personal sins let us not forget the structural sins of our society...greed, arrogance, pride and vengeance sometimes feebly masked as justice. As Jesus came forth from the wilderness of the desert proclaiming the coming of the Reign of God bursting forth in the world through the preaching of the Gospel, he forever linked "the Gospel imperatives" to the Reign of God. To the extent that we live out the imperatives of Jesus; to love one another as he has loved us, to love our enemies, to actively seek to alleviate the suffering of the poor and the marginalized...to that same extent we participate in the building up of the Reign of God. Lent is meant to be a time of reflection **and of action!** We are called to a conversion of heart...to turn away from selfishness and sin and all that gets in the way of our living as true disciples of Jesus Christ. What can I do, or stop doing, in order to become a more faithful disciple of Jesus Christ? What acts of **alms-giving, prayer and fasting** can I commit to this Lent that will help build up the Reign of God in the midst of a suffering world?

Lenten Blessings,

Fr Tim

***Programs that are open to the entire community, but offered in English only.
Programas que le dan la bienvenida a toda la comunidad, pero que solo se ofrecen en inglés.***

SOME EMPTY BOWLS SUPPER - Please join SOME (So Others Might Eat) for our 26th annual Empty Bowls soup supper on Wednesday, March 11th at St. Ann's Church (5312 10th Street N, Arlington), 6pm-8pm. Each year SOME hosts Empty Bowls soup suppers to promote awareness of the growing issue of hunger in our area and to help provide meals for the hungry and homeless. Guests are invited to take home handmade bowls crafted by local artists and enjoy soup, bread and dessert donated by local restaurants. The bowl serves as a reminder of the meal's purpose – every time you take the "empty bowl" from your cupboard, we hope you'll remember that someone's bowl is always empty and, on this occasion, you help to alleviate someone's hunger. The cost is \$25 per person and tickets may be purchased at the door or online at some.org/emptybowls. All proceeds will help SOME continue to provide more than 1,000 meals each day to hungry and homeless men, women and children. For more information, please contact Siannah Marcellin at smarcellin@some.org.

CREATION CARE CHALLENGE: Join us in this opportunity to show your care for the environment by eating less meat during Lent. Our small collective actions may be a sacrifice but also a positive way to lessen the negative effects of meat production on the Earth. See more details and further articles at www.olpva.org under "News".

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTION DURING LENT – If you're still looking for things to do for Lent, you might want to take a look at the Gun Violence Prevention Lenten Action Calendar published by the DC Area Gun Violence Prevention Network. OLQP's Gun Violence Prevention Ministry participates in the network. Because the network includes non-Christian congregations and was intended to be used in future years, the calendar refers only to 40 days of action and not to the Christian tradition of Lent or specific dates in 2020. But those limitations also mean you can pick up the calendar at any time and find suggestions for ways to express your Christian commitment to the preservation of life and human dignity through gun violence prevention activities.

STONE SOUP SUPPER SERIES -- The series on Learn, Pray, Act will continue this Friday, March 6, with a screening of the movie "Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story". This wonderful movie will be followed by commentary from parishioner Dolores Leckey who is a friend of the movie maker. Come out and learn from two phenomenal women.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS -- *The National Catholic Reporter* is offering a program of short (one minute or less) meditations on food, faith, and climate. The reflections are edited by our own parishioner, Jesse Remedios, who is part of the NCR staff. To sign up, go to Earthbeat Weekly: A New Idea for Lent.

JUST\$ Giant and Safeway cards will be available this weekend for your grocery shopping or to donate to the OLQP Food Pantry. Half the net proceeds from Just\$ help the Food Pantry. Our Catholic tradition calls us to a priority concern for the poor and vulnerable, which includes the right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity. With your support, our Food Pantry serves as many as 250 families a week.

The **BUILDING FOREVER FAMILIES** ministry for adoptive/foster families and children who have been orphaned will hold its monthly gathering, Sunday, March 8, in Father Ray Hall after the 11:15 Mass about 12:30 pm. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Debra and Ralph Johnson at Debralpholqp@gmail.com or Rebecca Carpenter at Rebecca.e.carpenter@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT WORK COULD BEGIN AFTER YOU RETIRE? Please join representatives of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps to find out how your talent and compassion are needed to serve the materially poor in Northern Virginia. An information session will be held Monday, March 9th, from 1:30pm to 2:45pm in the Ministry Center, 2nd Floor Classroom 1. Please email mmothes@ivcusa.org for questions or call 703-534-4140 to R.S.V.P.

Walking with the Catechumens

Engaging the faith community in the Lenten journey of conversion

By TOM SKORUPA

Imagine that for many months you have been on a path of self-examination reflecting on what it means to live authentically - specifically, discerning a call to become Christian. You have encountered layers of resistance to turning your life around. Now standing with companions who have shared this path, you are asked to face west, the direction of sunset, ebbing light, and the darkening shroud of evil. You hear Paul's words that reflect the contrast to living in the light. Then you are asked if you are ready instead to embrace Christ and his way. You turn and face east, the direction of light, new dawn and freedom from darkness. You hear the echo of Paul's description of what marks the Spirit's way: "love, peace, joy, patience, kindness ... " (Galatians 5:22). You sense an inner encounter, a letting go into God.

In the book, *Rites of Justice*, Megan McKenna portrays such rituals of reorientation - literally, turning to the Orient - as primary turning-point experiences of fourth century catechumens on their journey of conversion. As the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* repeatedly affirms, the journey of conversion is still the core of the catechumenate. This process is self-evidently connected to the larger church's experience of Lent, which as pointed out in the Vatican II document, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, ("Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" #109-110) largely took shape in the early catechumenate era. Ash Wednesday's readings vividly express the primal call to conversion. The prophet Joel exhorts everyone at every age and strata of society to return to God with a whole heart, and Paul adds a decided sense of urgency: *Now* is the moment to move toward the reconciling grace of Christ.

By extension, our present political, ecological, economic and ethical world situation veritably demands the urgency and intensity of such radical reorientation. Certainly, this has a personal dimension, but just as the whole people of God journeyed across the desert toward the promised land, we inherently make our way through Lent and each call to conversion as a corporate body. Moreover, this year's Cycle A Lectionary readings not only add deepening momentum in moving toward God, they also broaden our whole parish participation in the Lenten journey by encouraging us to walk with the catechumens. The Gospels of the third, fourth and fifth weeks, in particular, provide the rich basis for catechumens to engage the Penitential Rites, or Scrutinies, a key part of preparing for the Easter sacraments. These communally celebrated rites "complete the conversion of the elect and strengthen their resolve to hold fast to Christ".



Additionally, this reorientation is essentially *relational*, just as the Gospels in Cycle A are highly relational. Jesus engages the woman at the well, the man born blind, and Lazarus' sisters and friends in personal conversation, meeting these seekers exactly where they are and nourishing the deepest thirst of the human heart for truth, meaningful contact and fullness of life. This in turn encourages meaningful companionship between catechumens and the rest of the parish body of Christ. Indeed, this relationship is by nature reciprocal: Being in the crucible of the challenge inherent in radical conversion, catechumens need the prayerful

support, encouragement and witness of the whole faith community - particularly the example and counsel of mature members grounded in the graced presence of Christ. Conversely, these newest community members' fresh, earnest encounter with the Spirit's transformative power can revitalize even the lukewarm and inspire a generous response to our call to ongoing conversion.

Three suggested areas for engaging the community in the catechumens' conversion journey are:

Cultivating genuine personal contact. Consistent companionship by the formation team throughout the process is invaluable. Therefore, inviting new team members and sponsors from within small Christian communities, Bible study groups and the whole parish is an ongoing priority. Degrees of more pre-Lenten and early Lenten involvement may include drawing an individual catechumen's name and praying daily in solidarity and support. With permission, photos and perhaps brief statements indicating the uniqueness of each catechumen's faith journey can be placed in a parish gathering area or bulletin. Parishioners might also invite a catechumen to dinner or small gathering and welcome the sharing of faith story or struggles around conversion.

Sharing in service and reflecting on the experience. Readings in early Lent (Isaiah 58:1-9, 9-14; Matthew 25:31-46) encourage feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger ... and so suggest catechumens helping in a soup kitchen/food pantry, or perhaps at a parish event - then joining in a small group with a focus on exploring the implications for the catechumen's conversion journey

Solidarity with catechumens' self-examination Attending the communal Scrutiny Rites is a good start. Earnestly engaging in post-baptismal opportunities for deepening personal and communal transformation, such as community reconciliation services or Lenten retreats, can further reinforce catechumens' inner work toward conversion.

In brief, walking with catechumens on their journey of radical reorientation is a preeminent and integral way to deepen the Lenten journey of the whole faith community.

Tom Skorupa is a writer living in Albuquerque, N.M., with his wife, Jan. [Email: thomaskorupa@gmail.com](mailto:thomaskorupa@gmail.com)

Celebration Magazine

February 2017



For information on OLQP's RCIA Program, contact Kevin and Alice Curtin at acurtin947@aol.com or 703-461-3082.

For information on the Spanish language program, please contact Cecilia Lopez Oetgen, clopez@olqpva.org.

Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent, March 1

by Jim Forest

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11

All these kingdoms I will bestow on you if you prostrate yourself in homage before me. ~Matthew 4:10

Jesus's last temptation was to trade worship for power. Satan is shown as a power broker. His message: "Center your life on the prince of worldly power, and I will let you share in this power."

Making the border crossing into Lent is an opportunity to leave the centers of power behind and to surrender powerful ambitions. At first glance, it seems like opting for weakness. Satan shows Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence" — an impressive, vast, dazzling vision. But the problem with long-distance viewing is that the huge swallows up the tiny. From the top of the Empire State Building, human beings look like ants. From the height of a satellite, a city looks like an ant hill. Human beings are lost in the dust.

In the life of Jesus, human beings aren't ants. They are ordinary people with names and faces, some with withered limbs and unseeing eyes, some with dead children, some with half-dead consciences, all wounded, all needing forgiveness. But limbs can't be strengthened, eyes can't be healed, children can't be raised, and sins can't be forgiven from a mountaintop or a space station.

Entering the City of Lent, our eyes adjust to a dimmer light. We gradually discover the beauty of a subtler kind of landscape. Longing to participate in the peace of Christ, we learn to turn away from whatever blinds us to each other's faces and wounds. In rejecting the kingdom of this world and taking on the work of healing and forgiveness, we find to our astonishment that what we thought was weakness is instead a work of great courage and strength.

The Dutch writer and philosopher Abel Herzberg tells a story of a rabbi who, upon entering a room in his home, saw his son deep in prayer. "In the corner," he writes, "stood a cradle with a crying baby. The rabbi asks his son, 'Can't you hear? There's a baby crying in this room.' The son said, 'Father, I was lost in God.' And the rabbi said, 'He who is lost in God can see the very fly crawling up the wall'" (Abel Herzberg, *Brieven aan mijn kleinzoon [Letters to my Grandson]*, Amsterdam: Querido, 1985).

Jesus is drawn to those whom others prefer not to see — like the woman "with a bad name" who followed him into a Pharisee's house and washed his feet with her tears. "I tell you," said Jesus, "that her sins, her many sins, must have been forgiven or she would not have shown such great love. It is the one who is forgiven little who shows little love." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:47)

The unforgiven person is trapped in destruction. The person who wants to participate in the peace of Christ has to become deeply sensitive to the need, often unrecognized and rarely discussed, for forgiveness. Peace work is healing work. Healing is tied to forgiveness.

For reflection:

- What "centers of power" draw you most strongly? How do these centers affect your perception of others?
- Do you agree with the rabbi in Herzberg's story that a person lost in God "can see the very fly crawling up the wall"? Who in your life exemplifies this sensitivity?

This reflection was taken from Passage to Love: Lent 1990, by Jim Forest, former Secretary General of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, editor of The Catholic Worker, and biographer of Dorothy Day. The booklet was published by Pax Christi USA in 1990.

PAX CHRISTI USA
February 27, 2020

