

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 downtrodden 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

Parish Office Building is now Open!

¡El edificio de la oficina parroquial
está nuevamente abierto!

Website / sitioweb: olqpva.org

Live Stream Mass Schedule:

August 29– 9:30am & 1pm

September 5– 11:15am & 1pm

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)

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

August 29, 2021

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.

Mark 7:6-7



Este pueblo me honra con los labios,
pero su corazón está lejos de mí.
Es inútil el culto que me rinden, porque
enseñan doctrinas que no son sino
preceptos humanos!

Marcus 7:6-7

THIS WEEKEND'S USCCB EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND 2ND COLLECTION:

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FOR HAITI

SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA:
FONDO DE EMERGENCIA DE LA USCCB PARA DESASTRES:
ASISTENCIA PARA EL TERREMOTO DE HAITÍ

NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA:
UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE AMÉRICA



NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ
29 de agosto 2021
VIGESIMOSEGUNDO DOMINGO EN EL
TIEMPO ORDINARIO

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION /
PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL**

Baptism / Bautizo:

Please email Baptism Coordinator Sandra Rivera,
srivera@olqpva.org.

Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los
bautizos, Sandra Rivera, srivera@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:

Fr. Ray Hall Library
Biblioteca Fr. Ray Hall

Saturdays 4:45-5:15pm & by appointment
Los sábados: 4:45-5:15pm y por cita previa.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$7,095
Mission Cooperative— Missionhurst /
Plan Cooperativo de Misiones— Missionhurst: \$3,544
Faith Direct (July Average /
promedio del mes de julio): \$14,401

**WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/
MISAL PALABRA Y EUCARISTÍA**

Today's readings can be found on page 646.
Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 647.

BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN

Wednesday / miércoles —9 AM — office@olqpva.org

**OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US /
NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN**

PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR:

Catherine Algeri, Suri Barahona, Gene Bétit, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Marty Butner Covington, Brody Carroll, Reggie Carter, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Jeff Cory, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiC-erbo, Ernest Donatto, Patricia "Pat" Dowd, Irene Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yvette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Iva Futrell, Karen Gammache, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Fred Gladbach, Yolanda Gregorio, Harris Family, Sally Hars, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Margaret Hodges, Margaret Howe, Patrick Hynes, Beatriz Uribe Jaramillo, Lillian Jay, Pat Johnson, 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, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrisey, Bob Morsches, Chelsea Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Bruyce Niligis, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Janet O'Neil, Delfima Pacheco-Choque, Roy P-aco, 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 Shirvianian, Mary Shookhoff, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Eva Souza, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Utle, Robin Vogel, Kate Witkowski, Midge Wholey, Mary Woods, Claudia Zapata, Kate Zopp.

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
VIGESIMOSEGUNDO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 (125B); James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Deuteronomio 4:1-2, 6-8 (125B); Santiago 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;
Marcos 7,1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
VIGESIMOTERCER DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Isaiah 35:4-7a (128B); James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37
Isaías 35,4-7a (128B); Santiago 2,1-5; Marcos 7,31-37

MASS INTENTIONS, AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 3

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 28 AGOSTO- 3 SEPTIEMBRE
VIGESIMOSEGUNDO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Saturday August 28th

5:30 pm Dexter Yaptenco (D) by Agnes Yaptenco

Sunday August 29th

8:00 am Raelynn Josey (D) by Kathleen Donovan & family
9:30 am Marcelita Barrento Tolentino (D) by Canossa Class 76
11:15 am Richard A. Buckner (D) by the Felker family
1:00 pm Blanca Tobon (D) by her daughter and grandchildren
6:00 pm Rosite Cuvilly (D) by Jacqueline Klopner

Monday August 30th

12:00 pm the Parish

Tuesday August 31st

12:00 pm the Parish

Wednesday September 1st

12:00 pm Mickey Simpson (L) by Susan Bruns

Thursday September 2nd

12:00 pm Miguel Molina (D) by the family

Friday September 3rd

12:00 Polly Heath (D) by Susan Bruns

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 parroquia/

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

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

Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos:

Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe):

Cecilia López Oetgen, clopez@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Assistant Director (bilingüe):

Sandra Rivera, srivera@olqpva.org

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

Administrative Support:

Jeannette Gantz Daly, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

Monica McCormick, mmccormick@olqpva.org

Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):

Mel Cabrera, mcabrera@olqpva.org

Michael Hill, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

Zulema Ramallo

**OLQP ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 1-5PM:**

Celebrating "75+1" Years as a Parish!

All are welcome to join us at Barcroft Park for a day of food, fellowship, and family fun. Hotdogs, hamburgers, sides, chips, and water will be provided and individually portioned. Safe activities for both children and adults are in the works! We are excited to see you to celebrate our beloved parish, now in its 76th year. We are still looking for help with set-up, clean-up, children's activities, cooking, or to share any other talents to make this day a success! Please contact Leah Tanyag, lenrique33@gmail.com to volunteer.

**PICNIC ANUAL DE OLQP EL DOMINGO,
26 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1-5PM:**

¡Celebrando "75+1" años como parroquia!

Todos son bienvenidos a unirse a nosotros en Barcroft Park para compartir un día de comida, compañerismo y diversión familiar. Ofreceremos perros calientes, hamburguesas, platos adicionales, papitas y agua en porciones individuales. ¡Se están planeando actividades adecuadas para niñas/os y adultos! Estamos muy emocionados por verlos para celebrar a nuestra querida parroquia, ahora al cumplir sus 76 años. ¡Todavía estamos buscando ayuda para organizar, limpiar, las actividades para los niños, cocinar o para compartir cualquier otros talentos para que el día sea un éxito! Por favor contacte a Leah Tanyag, lenrique33@gmail.com para ofrecerse de voluntaria/o.

YOUTH MINISTRY: There will be a Youth Ministry Program Year registration and kick-off, for parents and students, grades 7-12, on Thursday, September 9, at 7:00pm. Volunteers are needed to accompany our youth throughout the program year, including teen nights, clubs, outings and work camp 2022. Join us!

MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES: Vamos a tener la matrícula y el comienzo para padres y estudiantes de los grados 7-12 el jueves, 9 de septiembre a las 7:00pm. Se necesitan personas que se ofrezcan de voluntarias para acompañar a nuestros jóvenes durante el año del programa. Se incluyen las noches para adolescentes, los clubes, las excursiones y el campamento de trabajo 2022. ¡Únete a nosotros!

NEWS FROM MEDOR:

This is Jean Emy Elysee. Years ago he gave himself the nickname Manlove to reflect the love he feels for all mankind. He is a husband, a father, and the person who directs the sanitation program in Medor, hiking around the 74 square mile community, instructing families on the importance of ending the common practice of open-air defecation. He has led the community in building 286 arbor-loos, family composting latrines. He also provides instruction on the importance of drinking purified water. We have known Manlove since 2012. Many OLQP parishioners who have traveled to Medor call him their friend.



Manlove lives close to the epicenter of the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on August 14. The day after the quake he sent us the message published in last week's bulletin, stating that he and his family were alive but that their home was destroyed. Manlove wrote that message before learning that his grandparents had been killed in the quake. They were crushed by falling debris when their home collapsed. Their funeral was last week. Thankfully, Medor was not in the zone that was devastated by the earthquake. Please continue to pray for the thousands of people who, like Manlove, are suffering from this terrible tragedy.

NOTICIAS DE MEDOR:

Éste es Jean Emy Elysee. Hace años se puso el apodo de Manlove para reflejar el amor que siente por toda la humanidad. Es esposo, padre y la persona que dirige el programa de saneamiento en Medor. Él camina por todas las 74 millas cuadradas de la comunidad para instruir a las familias sobre la importancia de eliminar la práctica de la defecación al aire libre. Él ha estado al frente de la movilización de la comunidad para edificar 286 arbor loos, letrinas familiares que sirven de abono. También provee instrucción de la importancia de tomar agua purificada. Conocemos a Manlove desde el año 2012. Muchos feligreses de OLQP que han viajado a Medor lo consideran un amigo.

Manlove vive cerca del epicentro del terremoto de magnitud 7.2 que azotó a Haití el 14 de agosto. Al día siguiente del terremoto él nos mandó el mensaje que se publicó en el boletín de la semana pasada, diciendo que él y su familia estaban vivos, pero que su casa había sido destruida. Manlove escribió ese mensaje antes de enterarse de que sus abuelos habían muerto en el terremoto. Cuando su casa se derrumbó, la caída de los escombros los aplastó. Su entierro fue la semana pasada. Gracias a Dios Medor no esta en la zona que el terremoto destruyó. Por favor continúen rezando por las miles de personas que, como Manlove, están sufriendo debido a esta terrible tragedia.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

Seeking a spiritual home? The RCIA is a gradual process of formation for those seeking a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of the Catholic faith. Whether you are just beginning your faith journey, are already baptized in another Christian tradition and want to explore Catholicism, or are seeking preparation to receive the sacraments, RCIA is the pathway. The journey begins with a "no-strings" inquiry session on Thursday, September 30, at 7 p.m., either in person or virtually (as circumstances dictate). Join us! For information, contact Kevin and Alice Curtin at acurtin947@aol.com or 703-461-3082.

RITO DE INCICACIÓN CRISTIANA DE ADULTOS (RICA)

¿Busca un hogar espiritual? RICA es un proceso gradual de formación para quienes buscan una relación más profunda con Dios y un mejor entendimiento de la fe católica. RICA es el camino si está empezando su jornada de fe, ya se ha bautizado en otra tradición cristiana y quiere explorar el catolicismo o quiere prepararse para recibir los sacramentos. La jornada empieza el jueves, 30 de septiembre a las 7 p.m. en persona o virtualmente con una sesión "sin compromiso" de investigación (de acuerdo a las circunstancias). ¡Únase a nosotros! Para obtener información contacte a Cecilia López – clopez@olqpva.org o llame al 703-979-5580.

MATT 25 NOTICE OF DATES CLOSED

The Matt 25 thrift store will be closed on Saturday, August 28th, for the Confirmation Retreat, and on Wednesday, September 1st, to permit painting of the Ministry Center. As noted previously, the store will also be closed on September 4th, the Saturday before Labor Day. Please be advised that donations will NOT be accepted on these days. The Matt 25 store will reopen on Wednesday, September 8th.

WEEKLY OLQP MOMENT

Join the parish community on Friday at 1:08pm to reflect on the topic of **Traditions**. There is no time requirement for your reflection and no virtual meeting to join. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, please pause for your reflection knowing you are with others from the OLQP community.

Anyone wishing to add the OLQP moment to their calendar can email "OLQP Moment" to Patrick Julius at patjulius@verizon.net to receive the information in a calendar request. Please specify if you want the reminder in Spanish.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION For 2021-2022 NOW OPEN

The registration form is on the parish website (olqpva.org >> our faith >> registration) or you can call the Faith Formation office to receive a copy by mail. We are registering for all 2021- 2022 programs including first year sacramental programs (First Communion and Confirmation are 2-year programs). There is a family book fee for Foundations of \$20; one fee per family. Program/book fees are also in place for the sacramental programs. Fees can be paid on-line through Faith Direct (Faithdirect.net, parish code VA271, note "foundations") or families can mail in a check with "foundations" on the memo line. Details on all the programs being offered for 2021-2022 school year are available on the parish website under "our faith" tab. Please contact our new Director of Faith Formation, Cecilia (clopez@olqpva.org), with any questions or call 703-979-5580 to leave a message for a return call.

REUSE THOSE GROCERY BAGS! We are in real need of **brown paper bags with handles**. These help volunteers package our foods and give the bags a second life before recycling. Thank you for working to reduce waste. Please drop them off during office hours from 10am until 2pm. in the food collection bins behind Father Ray Hall.

CELEBRATING A SILVER OR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

Were you married in 1971 or 1996? Then join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge for the 2021 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 17th at 3pm. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington. Contact the parish office to register no later than October 1st. For more info, visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM.

DÍAS DE CIERRE DE MATEO 25

La tienda de segunda mano Mateo 25 va a estar cerrada el sábado, 28 de agosto debido al retiro de Confirmación y el miércoles, 1º de septiembre para pintar el Ministry Center. Como se indicó anteriormente, la tienda también va a cerrar el 4 de septiembre, el sábado antes de Labor Day. Por favor recuerde que las donaciones NO se van a aceptar esos días. La tienda volverá a abrir el miércoles, 8 de septiembre.

MOMENTO SEMANAL DE OLQP

Únase a la comunidad parroquial el viernes a la 1:08pm para reflexionar sobre el tema de las **Tradiciones**. No se requiere que se reflexione por un tiempo específico y no hay que asistir a una reunión virtual. Dondequiera que esté, sin importar lo que está haciendo, por favor pare para reflexionar sabiendo que está unida/o a otras personas de la comunidad de OLQP. Cualquier persona que desea añadir el momento a su calendario puede mandarle un correo electrónico "Momento de OLQP" a Patrick Julius – patjulius@verizon.net para recibir la información en una solicitud para el calendario. Por favor especifique si quiere el recordatorio en español.

LA MATRÍCULA PARA LA FORMACIÓN DE FE PARA EL 2021-2022 ESTÁ ABIERTA AHORA

El formulario de inscripción está en el sitio web de la parroquia (olqpva.org >> our faith >> registration) o puede llamar a la oficina de Formación de fe para recibir una copia por correo. Estamos matriculando para todos los programas del 2021-2022 incluyendo los sacramentales del primer año (Primera comunión y Confirmación ahora son programas de 2 años). Algo nuevo para el año escolar del 2021-2022 es una cuota por familia de libros de \$20. Hay también cuotas adicionales para programas/libros para los programas de los sacramentos. Las cuotas se pueden pagar en línea por Faith Direct (Faithdirect.net, código de la parroquia VA271, "foundations") o las familias pueden enviar un cheque por correo con "foundations" en la línea del asunto. Detalles acerca de todos los programas que se ofrecen para el año escolar del 2021-2022 están disponibles bajo la pestaña (tab) "our faith" del sitio web de la parroquia. Por favor contacte a nuestra nueva directora de la Formación de fe, Cecilia (clopez@olqpva.org), si tiene alguna pregunta o llame al 703-979-5580 para dejar un mensaje para que le llamen.

¡REUTILICE ESAS BOLSAS DEL MERCADO!

Verdaderamente necesitamos **bolsas de papel con agarraderas**. Las bolsas ayudan a las personas voluntarias a empaquetar la comida y le dan una segunda vida a las bolsas antes de reciclarlas. Gracias por ayudar a reducir el desperdicio. Por favor tráigalas durante las horas de trabajo de 10am a las 2pm a los contenedores de recogida de alimentos detrás de Fr. Ray Hall.

¿VA A CELEBRAR UN ANIVERSARIO DE BODA DE PLATA O DE ORO ESTE AÑO?

¿Se casó en el 1971 o 1969? Entonces únase al Obispo Michael Burbidge para la Misa para jubilaires que se celebrará el domingo, 17 de octubre a las 3pm en la Catedral de St. Thomas More en Arlington. Póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial no más tarde que el 1ro de octubre para apuntarse. Para obtener más información visite www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM.

*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.*

OLQP "SHARE THE WORD" BIBLE STUDY

2nd and 4th Saturday Mornings

Sept - May, 9:30 - 11:00 via ZOOM, Begin 9/11

Would you like to explore the meaning that the Bible holds for you today? If you are interested OLQP offers a study twice a month. We use Little Rock Scripture Study as our guide. The program does require some reading but nothing very time consuming. There are no prerequisites. The heart of the program is in the shared discussions that allow us to bring our own experiences to bear on the scripture.

Each session consists of a short reading review and video lecture followed by group discussion.

The cost of The Gospel According to Matthew by Barbara E Reid can be purchased from Little Rock Scripture Study for \$16.95 plus shipping. Ebay also has a selection of new and used books at lower prices.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ED TALKS ARE COMING

This year's *Ed Talk* theme is Spirituality. On Thursday, September 23, at 7 p.m. Father Tuck Grinnell will speak about the roll and benefits of spiritual direction in our life with Christ. In October, parish member Dolores Leckey will speak about the spirituality of the laity. Finally, we close the program with another great parish member, Michele Chang, who will speak in November about Spirituality as the well-spring for racial justice.

"HOLD ON". All are invited to Minkisi's Scripture Prayer and Reflection, at 6:45-9:00 pm, September 13 in Zoom. Gail Meighan will lead the meditation on Psalm 50:12. For program questions, contact facilitator Cecilia Braveboy, jisaac3@verizon.net or for registration assistance, Melody Atkinson, melatkinson72@gmail.com. Further details and registration: <https://bit.ly/MinkisiSeptember>.

JUST A THOUGHT...OR TWO...

The second reading from Paul this Sunday reminds us of our responsibility to care for the vulnerable populations in our society. In first century Palestine widows and the orphans were the most vulnerable, the poorest of the poor. They had no one to watch out for them and the Law and the Prophets commanded that it was the responsibility of the rest of the community of Israel to care for them.

The Psalmist reminds us that "the one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord." Jesus chastises the Pharisees and the Scribes for adhering to the "letter of the Law" and not living the "Spirit of the Law".

Jesus turns their world upside down and confronts them with the truth that what is in a person's heart is more important than simply adhering to precepts of the law. The message of God's Word challenges us to "do justice"; to allow the Holy Spirit that dwells within us to transform our hearts from deep within.

Jesus challenges each one of us to become new creations and soar beyond the smallness and stinginess of our human

JustFAITH -- Choose how you want to make a difference

JustFaith is a small group program of JustFaith Ministries that invites participants into a process of learning and discovering how to live more simply and compassionately. Interested/questions contact Sally Diaz-Wells at sdiazwells@olqpva.org.

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS FOR OLQP OUTING TO THE MUSICAL WORKING ON BLM PLAZA

The producers of Working: A Musical (workingindc.org) have reserved 30 seats for its outdoor showing at BLM Plaza on Saturday 9/11 at 7:30pm for the OLQP Labor Team and fellow parishioners. It is about Studs Terkel's conversations with workers, and features new music by Lin Manuel Miranda, James Taylor, and others, with cast conversation following the show. Free will offering accepted. RSVP now to Laura Bandini, HTLaura1@gmail.com to reserve your tickets (limit 2 per family to start; first come first served).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY -- We have a member of our church in need of some congregant help. He is 23 miles from our church (Fair Oaks Mall area) and would like a ride to church. If you happen to live near or somewhat near, we ask for your prayerful consideration. If you would like to help this community member, please contact Sally Diaz-Wells at sdiazwells@olqpva.org

societies and join in building up the Reign of God -- a place where all people are valued, loved and cared for as sisters and brothers.

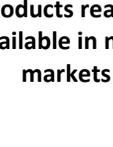
This message is so on spot as we struggle through the horrific and painful natural disasters that have decimated countries like Haiti and parts of our own country. How do we respond to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Afghanistan, and all the terror reigning down upon innocent women, children and men by the Taliban and Isis-K. How will we accept and embrace the immigrants from Afghanistan and welcome them into our communities and make them feel like our sisters and brothers?

Join me this week as I reflect on; How am I actively doing justice in my daily life? Who are the poor and vulnerable in my life that I am called to care for? What do I need to do in order let go and let the Holy Spirit take the lead in my life? What do I need to do in order let go and let the Holy Spirit take the lead in my life that I may be a person of hope in the midst of such dark and troubling times?

Blessings,
Fr Tim

HUNGER ACTION MONTH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>In 2008, <i>Feeding America</i> began Hunger Action Month (HAM) to start a nationwide push to get citizens involved with the hunger crisis throughout the country.</p>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Commit to one activity that helps Mother Earth & those that are hungry</p> 	<p>Enjoy Labor Day Place an empty plate on your table</p> 	<p>Add hungry people to your daily prayers</p> 	<p>Discuss Just a Thought with your family or friends. Hear the connections</p> 	<p>For inspiration, check out the most needed items for food Pantry and donate to OLQP food pantry</p> 	<p>Instead of going out to dinner, eat at home & donate the money to the food pantry</p> 	<p>OLQP Drive Thru Food Drive Help End Hunger in our neighborhood</p> 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>OLQP Drive Thru Food Drive. Drop off your donations</p>	<p>Enjoy a Meatless Monday—have a Vegetable packed dinner</p> 	<p>Organize a Virtual Lunch with friends and Donate the money to a food pantry</p> 	<p>Discuss Just a Thought with your family or friends. Feel the connections</p> 	<p>Learn about Fair Trade products at SERRV.org</p> 	<p>Watch movie “The Water Crisis” on YouTube</p> 	<p>Go out and Glean as a family or donate fruit and vegetables to our food pantry</p> 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Learn about the Zero Hunger Challenge</p> 	<p>Clean out your pantry & make donations to the OLQP food pantry</p> 	<p>Wear a color that reminds you of your favorite fruit or vegetable</p> 	<p>Discuss Table Talk with your family or friends. Taste the connections</p> 	<p>Add hungry people to your daily prayers</p> 	<p>Go on a walk and do some animal spotting. Cats/dogs count!</p> 	<p>Volunteer in a garden and help grow food for the pantry</p> 
26	27	28	29	30		
<p>Compile your photos and share with us at office@olqpva.org</p> 	<p>Bring lunch from home this week and donate the savings to the food pantry</p> 	<p>Use Fair Trade products readily available in most markets</p> 	<p>Remember, hunger does not end with the month</p> 		<p>Millions of families are facing hunger—many for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic. Help us diminish or eradicate food insecurity in Virginia.</p>	

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

MES DE LA ACCIÓN CONTRA EL HAMBRE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<p>-En el 2008, <i>Feeding America</i> empezó el Mes de la acción contra el hambre (HAM) para empezar un movimiento nacional y animar a los ciudadanos a involucrarse en la crisis de hambre por todo el país</p>		<p>Aprenda acerca de HAM y mándeles un calendario a la familia y amistades</p>	<p>Recoja menudo sobrante durante el mes y dónelo a la despensa de alimentos de OLQP</p>	<p>Póngase ropa de un color que le recuerde su fruta o vegetal favorito</p>	<p>Organice una colecta de comida en el trabajo</p>	<p>Dé una caminata por la naturaleza y disfrute la belleza de Dios</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Comprométase a completar una actividad que ayude a la Madre Tierra y a quienes tienen hambre</p>	<p>Disfrute de Labor Day. Ponga un plato vacío en su mesa</p>	<p>Rece a diario por las personas que tienen hambre</p>	<p>Discuta Just a Thought con su familia y amistades. Escuche la conexión</p>	<p>Para inspirarse, vea cuáles son los artículos que la despensa de alimentos necesita más y dónelos</p>	<p>En vez de salir a comer, coma en su casa y done el dinero a nuestra despensa</p>	<p>Colecta de comida de OLQP recogida en el coche – ayude a eliminar el hambre en nuestro barrio</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>Colecta de comida de OLQP – recogida en el coche o tráigala a OLQP</p>	<p>Disfrute una cena sin carne un lunes. Coma una cena de vegetales</p>	<p>¿No ha empezado todavía? Todavía tiene tiempo de unirse a nosotros y ayudar a eliminar el hambre</p>	<p>Discuta Just a Thought con la familia y las amistades. Experimente la conexión</p>	<p>Aprenda acerca de los productos de comercio justo en SERRV.org</p>	<p>Vea la película "The Water Crisis" en YouTube</p>	<p>VAYA y recoja cosechas en familia o done frutas y vegetales</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Aprenda acerca del Zero Hunger Challenge (el reto de cero hambre)</p>	<p>Limpie su despensa y done cosas a la despensa de OLQP</p>	<p>¿Hizo algunas de las cosas que se sugirieron? Saque una fotografía</p>	<p>Discuta Table Talk con su familia y amistades, saboree la conexión</p>	<p>Rece por las personas que tienen hambre en sus oraciones diarias</p>	<p>Dé una caminata y busque animales. ¡Los gatos y los perros cuentan!</p>	<p>Ofrézcase de voluntaria/o en nuestro jardín y ayúdenos a cosechar comida para la despensa</p>
26	27	28	29	30		
<p>Reúna sus fotos y compártalas con nosotros: office@olqpvva.org</p>	<p>Lleve su almuerzo de la casa esta semana y done los ahorros</p>	<p>Use productos de comercio justo que están disponibles en la mayoría de los mercados</p>	<p>Recuerde que el hambre no termina con el mes</p>		<p>Millones de familias están pasando hambre – muchas por primera vez debido a la pandemia. Ayúdenos a reducir o erradicar la inseguridad alimentaria en Virginia.</p>	

SEASON OF CREATION: NURTURING OUR LOVE FOR THE EARTH September 1-October 4, 2021

Week 1, Aug. 29, 2021

Ask a fifteen year-old how many Christmases they can remember, and the answer will probably be ten or eleven. Ask a forty year-old how long they have observed Lent, and the answer might be that they were seven when they first gave up candy as a Lenten sacrifice. Ask a Catholic how long they have celebrated the Season of Creation and the answer might be a head scratch and a “huh?”

The sixth Annual Season of Creation begins September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends October 4 on the feast of St. Francis. Throughout the month-long celebration, Pope Francis calls Catholics to unite with the world’s Christians to reaffirm our vocation as stewards of creation: to learn about the critical issues facing humanity, to pray for wisdom and conversion, and to act to protect GOD’S PLAN(ET.)

Six years ago Pope Francis wrote the first encyclical devoted entirely to ecological issues, Laudato Si’. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” (#217).

During the Season of Creation, take time to learn more about ecological issues. On Aug 9, 2021 the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest climate report — the news was not good. Did you hear about it on the news? Read about it in the paper?

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>

“In the strongest terms ever, the IPCC established that global temperature has increased, oceans have warmed, glaciers are retreating, extreme weather is getting more intense and global sea level is rising. Human activity is behind this—unequivocally. These changes are exceptional and unprecedented in human history.¹” Scientists are seeing troubling changes in every nook and cranny across the entire ecological system around the globe. Some say that civilization is headed toward the worst catastrophe in human history. The report tells us what is wrong and how that happened.

The report said the climate crisis is bad and getting worse — BUT, the authors say there is still time to create a better future
IF WE ACT NOW!



Acting now requires:

- curbing the use of fossil fuels and stopping deforestation,
- changing to a more sustainable way of living at both the individual and institutional level
- advocating for solutions that protect people, the planet and all of nature

Acting now requires doing all these things while prioritizing the needs of the poor and the marginalized.

During the next five weeks, the Integrity of Creation Committee invites you to participate with us in reflecting on God’s gift of creation and our responsibilities as stewards of these precious gifts to nurture and love the Earth.

Contributed by Eileen Janas
Member of the Integrity of Creation Team

¹Dr. Joeri Rogelj <https://www.carbonbrief.org/scientists-react-what-are-the-key-new-insights-from-the-ipccs-wg1-report>

TIEMPO DE LA CREACIÓN:

CULTIVANDO NUESTRO AMOR POR LA TIERRA

1^o de septiembre — 4 de octubre de 2021

Semana 1, 29 de agosto de 2021

Pregúntele a un adolescente de quince años que cuántas Navidades recuerda y la respuesta probablemente va a ser diez u once. Pregúntele a una persona adulta por cuánto tiempo ha observado la Cuaresma y la respuesta podría ser que tenía siete años cuando dejó de comer dulces como sacrificio de Cuaresma. Pregúntele a una persona católica por cuánto tiempo ha celebrado el Tiempo de la creación y la respuesta podría ser una expresión de “¿qué?”

El sexto Tiempo de la creación anual empieza el 1^o de septiembre, el Día mundial de oración por la creación, y termina el 4 de octubre el día de San Francisco. Durante todo el mes de celebración, el Papa Francisco llama a los católicos a unirse con los cristianos del mundo para reafirmar nuestra vocación como administradores de la creación: para aprender acerca de los asuntos críticos a los cuales se enfrenta la humanidad, para rezar por sabiduría y conversión y actuar para proteger EL PLAN(ETA) DE DIOS.

Hace seis años el Papa Francisco escribió la primera encíclica dedicada totalmente a cuestiones ecológicas, *Laudato Si'*. “Vivir la vocación de ser protectores de la obra de Dios es parte esencial de una existencia virtuosa, no consiste en algo opcional ni en un aspecto secundario de la experiencia cristiana”. (#217)

Durante el Tiempo de la creación, saque tiempo para aprender más acerca de cuestiones ecológicas. El 9 de agosto de 2021 el Panel intergubernamental de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático (IPCC por sus siglas en inglés) publicó su reporte más reciente – las noticias no fueron buenas. ¿Escuchó esto por las noticias? ¿Lo leyó en el periódico? <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM> (solo en inglés)

“En los términos más firmes que nunca antes, el IPCC estableció que la temperatura global ha aumentado, los océanos se han calentado, los glaciares están disminuyendo, fenómenos meteorológicos extremos se han intensificado y el nivel global del mar está creciendo. Innegablemente la actividad humana está detrás de esto. Estos cambios son excepcionales y sin precedente en la historia de la humanidad”.¹ Los científicos están viendo cambios problemáticos en cada rincón del sistema ecológico por todo el mundo. Algunas personas dicen que la civilización va camino a la peor catástrofe en la historia humana. El reporte nos dice lo malo y cómo sucedió.

El reporte dijo que la crisis climática es algo malo y está empeorando – PERO, los autores dicen que todavía hay tiempo para crear un futuro mejor **¡SI ACTUAMOS AHORA!**

Eileen Janas, miembro del Grupo de la integridad de la creación, contribuyó este artículo.



Actuar ahora exige que:

- reduzcamos el uso de combustibles fósiles y le pongamos fin a la deforestación
- cambiamos a una manera de vivir más sostenible a nivel individual e institucional
- abogemos por obtener soluciones que protegen a las personas, al planeta y a toda la naturaleza

Actuar ahora exige que hagamos todas estas cosas mientras le damos prioridad a las necesidades de los pobres y los marginados.

Durante las próximas cinco semanas, el Grupo de la integridad de la creación le invita a participar con nosotros y reflexionar sobre el don de Dios de la creación y nuestras responsabilidades como administradores de estos preciosos dones para nutrir y amar la Tierra.

¹Dr. Joeri Rogelj <https://www.carbonbrief.org/scientists-react-what-are-the-key-new-insights-from-the-ipccs-wg1-report> : (solo en inglés)

What American Christians Owe the People of Afghanistan

By: **Rich McKinless**

What would *you do* if armed men broke into your home tonight, dragged your husband or grown son into the street, and had them publicly executed—solely for perfectly legal work he had performed to support your family? Suppose instead that these armed men demanded that your unmarried daughter immediately be turned over to them, soon to offered to a jihadist in forced marriage, likely never to be seen again?

If you cannot imagine such scenes in your home, by all means offer a prayer of thanksgiving that such excruciating circumstances just don't happen where you live. You might also consider not waiting until next Veterans Day to say thank you to a veteran or a soldier now serving—those who have willingly risked harm's way to safeguard the sense of personal security many of us simply take for granted.

Sadly, scenes such as those I described are taking place in Afghanistan and are reliably expected to continue with increasing frequency in the months to come. The question I grapple with today is no longer how or even why this can be happening. It is a bit simpler: What's a Christian to do?

Welcoming the stranger

My wife and I live very comfortably in the Virginia suburbs just outside Washington. But the events now making daily headlines as civil society collapses in Afghanistan in the vacuum left by the departing U.S. military nonetheless feel different for my family than perhaps they do for many Americans. I am of course thankful that I need not be terrified that my spouse or child may suddenly be taken from our home in the middle of the night. But knowing that this is in fact happening to other families, even halfway around the world, is now personal, in a different way.

Six years ago, the U.S. insurgency into Afghanistan was already 14 years long. Most Americans had more personally pressing matters occupying their attention. While international terrorism had by no means gone away, with Osama bin Laden gone, incidents of terror had moved to the background of American consciousness, no longer atop any poll of public concerns. That would certainly be true for my family as well.

At that same time, our local Catholic Charities began to share volunteer opportunities to assist families from Afghanistan attempting to resettle in the D.C. area. This was when my wife and I first learned of the [Special](#)

[Immigrant Visa](#) program, approved by Congress in 2009. Its goal was to encourage the local Afghan population to assist the U.S. military in its community and infrastructure rebuilding during the conflict. The explicit promise was that those who worked with our armed forces as interpreters and in other essential support roles could apply for a permanent U.S. work visa (or green card) if they faced serious threats as a result of their work. Approval of such applications required written recommendations from their supervisory U.S. personnel and the successful completion of a series of security clearances conducted by our in-country embassy staff.

[Migration and Refugee Services](#) is a program of Catholic Charities nationally and is very active in the Diocese of Arlington where we live. It serves as one of the federal government's contract providers assisting S.I.V. families who resettle in the D.C. area. When we asked how we might help, one simple answer came in learning that families may have no place to sleep upon arrival. Our State Department provides S.I.V. immigrants (as it does for others admitted as refugees) a resettlement allowance of a few thousand dollars, based mostly on family size. The allowance is intended to defray the startup costs of finding a place to live and other living expenses while gainful employment is sought. We learned from the Catholic Charities staff that these allowances disappear very quickly if the family has no local sponsor family to stay with initially, given the cost of commercial lodging in our major cities. ([See page 12 for details on Catholic Charities' program.](#))

My wife and I agreed to host an arriving S.I.V. Afghan family while they looked for work and a lease for a small apartment. Abdul and his wife Fatima arrived at Dulles Airport with three beautiful young children, ages 5, 3 and a newborn. (Names have been changed to protect the subjects and their families.) Abdul qualified for the S.I.V. program because he had worked in one of the most dangerous support roles: joining U.S. Army teams to locate undetonated roadside bombs—improvised explosive devices—intended for coalition soldiers. His excellent English allowed Abdul to reach out to trusted locals regarding recent activities of jihadist groups and then share gathered intelligence with bomb disposal teams.

Most roadside I.E.D.s are set off remotely by cell phone once coalition troops or their local "collaborators" are close by. Taliban sympathizers were not always identifiable, even by locals. Efforts to disarm the devices

always risked life and limb. For those like Abdul, the daily risk did not end with successful bomb disposal. Helping Americans disarm the Taliban was a heresy beyond simply taking a security or clerical job at a U.S. military base. If he were caught, his demise would not be quick or painless.

We hosted a second S.I.V. family the following year, in 2016. Sayed and his wife, Mina, were newly married when their approved visa came through from the U.S. embassy in Kabul. Sayed was a licensed physician in Afghanistan and had agreed to provide health care at a clinic set up by the U.S. Army in a village lacking any medical facilities.

For bureaucratic reasons that could never be defended, the average approval time for a successful S.I.V. application now exceeds three years. If your green card eventually comes through, you are advised to board the first flight you are able to book to the United States. In this case, that meant the couple said goodbye to their extended families (both are one of nine siblings) just three days after they were married.

Both families that we hosted found apartments and work within the first few months following their arrival in Northern Virginia. We have kept in touch, and one of our joys has been watching our own adult children seek out spending time with these wonderful families. They have been self-supporting, even throughout the pandemic that saw so many Americans lose their jobs.

Abdul and Fatima welcomed their fourth child a year ago, and their two oldest are looking forward to in-person school beginning this week. Abdul is now completing a certification program in cybersecurity, which he expects will enhance his own professional opportunities significantly. Sayed and Mina started a family of their own since their arrival; they now have a daughter and son who they quite proudly remind us are full American citizens. Sayed, who continues to take classes to improve his English, recently moved from driving for a food delivery service to a full-time position as a medical technician at a major local hospital. Mina works from their home as a beautician while juggling responsibility for the kids and attending an evening cosmetology certification program after her husband arrives home from work.

These families are thriving by any measure—including facing and managing the struggles that nearly all newcomers to any country face. What impresses me most is not how



hard they have worked, or even how much they genuinely appreciate America's freedoms. For me it is the courage it took for these young couples to leave behind their large and very close extended families, fully understanding they might never see them again. All to move halfway around the world to a place where they knew nearly no one. It surely takes some level of personal courage to start over with nothing while leaving everyone and everything you know behind.

I must balance this admiration with the knowledge that they also feared for their lives if they didn't leave. They knew others who tried and did not make it.

Those left behind

Fast forward to this week. We heard from both families as the images of desperation from their country appeared on everyone's TVs, laptops and smartphones. They watched in horror as the Taliban entered Kabul, the U.S. embassy was evacuated and tens of thousands fled toward the airport—where, for most, their slim hopes of a quick escape to any refuge were dashed.

Our Afghan friends now experience a personal terror all over again: for the family members they left behind. They don't understand how the country that may have literally saved their lives has now seemingly given up on everyone else still in Afghanistan. They don't care about our politics, for the most part—they just want their loved ones to survive. They are, of course, Muslim by faith and culture—but reject everything the Taliban represents, most of all the jihadist philosophy of intolerance toward all those who oppose their conception of the faith.

We have just learned that Abdul's brother also worked with the U.S. Army on "U.X.B.s"—unexploded bombs. Unlike Abdul, he wasn't sure about leaving his native country, the ongoing danger notwithstanding. He waited until 2018 before applying for S.I.V. status. Abdul told us his brother's paperwork was "99 percent complete" when Kabul fell. His brother now knows there will be no more green cards coming from our embassy in Kabul. He went into hiding when the Taliban entered the capital, leaving his wife and three young children at home alone in the city. He knows that Taliban fighters have little use for married women or their young children. If the family has no valuable possessions, they are likely to be left alone. The father, on the other hand, would not survive if found and identified.

Fatima's brother worked in a less dangerous job for the U.S. embassy, which hired many locals during the conflict to work as

translators as well as in security positions, clerical jobs and other roles in Kabul. He too finds himself now an unapproved S.I.V. applicant, fearing each day he may be identified, awaiting a safe way out that may never come.

Mina's mother and 17-year-old sister live in a northern province of Afghanistan, two days by bus from Kabul. Last month, they had fled to the capital when the city appeared to be the last safe haven, knowing they would have a place to stay with their in-laws. They have now chosen to flee back to their home village, where they hope the Taliban will have less interest. While an elderly widow is probably safe, an unmarried teenage girl, sadly, is the most attractive of targets.

What can be done?

News-loving Americans have no shortage of heart-wrenching stories from around the world. The 24-hour news cycle combined with our mobile phone addictions guarantees us access to any and all places where civil order is broken, public corruption is rampant, or natural disaster has decimated communities. It really can become numbing. Our natural compassion for people in such terrible plights can begin to give way to feelings of hopelessness—or at least that things are beyond our reach to make a difference.

For those of us in mostly safe neighborhoods and climate-controlled worlds, Covid-19 may have been the most unnerving threat we have experienced in years. For me and my family, Afghanistan is not just on the front pages, one more distant problem we really can't do anything about. It isn't the same when the anxiety, and even terror, is experienced by your friends—not anonymous victims in your news feed. Of course, my second-order connection to these victims doesn't mean I have any more answers.

Reports in The Washington Post estimate that there may be over 80,000 eligible S.I.V. applicants (including their spouses and minor children) still in Afghanistan. As of this writing, U.S. forces control the airport perimeter outside Kabul but essentially no other territory in the country. We are told our government is still assessing how to facilitate safe passage from the city, and hopefully the outer provinces, with the Taliban. Time will tell how many of those eligible are able to emigrate and realize the opportunity our friends were given. It seems clear many are certain to be left behind—or will not survive the wait.

Our government's policy decisions made (and not made) over four different presidential

administrations will be debated for years to come. Political finger-pointing remains a favorite pastime inside the D.C. beltway. It does nothing for our friends' family members, or the tens of thousands of others in now trapped in potentially lethal circumstances.

There seems to be broad agreement that America owes those who stood with us in Afghanistan at least our protection, if not a new life here. But the reality for even those who care is that most of us have no way to help any evacuation effort now underway or to influence how extensive it will be.

But this cannot be just one more international crisis from which we move on as the news cycle rolls on, concluding we just can't make any difference. There in fact may be little any of us can do to change the fate of those who are ultimately left behind. But thousands will get out. Those who do come to America will soon face the daunting challenges that immigrants have always faced in a strange new land. Most every American can and should do something for them. Just three ideas:

Remember: Your own family first came to this country from a foreign place, likely leaving hardships behind, willingly coming to a strange land that promised them little more than the freedom to start over.

Learn: Who in your city or town works with S.I.V. refugees? The need for these services is about to explode. One well-regarded nonprofit dedicated solely to this effort is [No One Left Behind](#), founded by a retired U.S. Army captain and his former Afghan interpreter. They play a coordinating role with other N.G.O.s around the country that assist in resettlement efforts at the community level.

There are currently nine umbrella social service organizations (including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) designated by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to provide direct assistance to S.I.V. families in finding places to live, securing jobs, enrolling their kids in school, or even finding used furniture or shopping for a used car.

These arriving families are brave, and they are willing to work. But they don't know how our society works or how to figure it out on their own. Local parishes and other faith communities are now "adopting" one or more refugee families to help play these support roles. Find out what is already happening in your area.

Share: Most S.I.V. arrivals choose to resettle

in large U.S. cities, where they believe they will more readily find work and perhaps others from their home country who may have recently resettled. If you are not in one of these larger metropolitan areas, consider supporting one of the charitable groups that are meeting their needs. These nonprofits have learned what the barriers to success are for these families, and how to leverage existing community networks effectively. Demands for services from these organizations will grow dramatically in the months and years to come. Help in that way if you are able.

Keeping our promises

For me, Afghanistan is not at all about the larger ongoing debate regarding U.S. immigration policy. Those challenges need addressing, to be sure. But no matter how welcoming a country we choose to be, America cannot invite everyone inside our borders who would rather be here than where they find themselves. Pray for all who face hunger, political instability or economic deprivation. We know they deserve better.

This situation is different: Our country made a promise to the people of Afghanistan when we invaded their country to remove Osama bin Laden, disable Al Qaeda and degrade safe havens for radical Islamists. We told the Afghan people: Work with us. We will help you create a democracy of your own—this is your child's chance for a better life. Whether that was ever a realistic promise, we did make it, and our presence there for 20 years meant most Afghans came to believe that we really meant it.

Historians and foreign policy experts can argue whether different policy choices would have led to better outcomes. What I will not leave to those experts is the moral judgment that our country's promise must still mean something. Even if we have given up on building democracy in Afghanistan, leaving behind those who trusted us and risked everything to do so should be wholly unacceptable.

Those who end up getting out will be very fortunate. Many deserve recognition as heroes for what they did, with so little promised in return. It is time for Americans to do all we can to treat them accordingly.

Rich McKinless is a retired partner from the accounting and consulting firm KPMG. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Arlington, Va. Their daughter, Ashley, is an executive editor at America Media.

[@McKinlessRich](#)

<https://www.americamagazine.org>

August 20, 2021

Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) / Catholic Charities solicits support for newly arriving Afghan refugees

New, household items/furnishings to outfit apartments for the new arrivals are badly needed. The intersection of *COVID19, coupled with the State Department requirements for outfitting refugee housing translates into delivering as many new items to the families as possible.*

1. MRS's **AMAZON Wish List** link to the list of household furnishings needs is below:

<https://a.co/3CwylQ9>

Using this list allows you to have the gifts sent immediately to Catholic Charities. Feel free to use this list as a guide at other stores such as at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Burlington, Kohl's, or Big Lots – they have many similar/equivalent items. (Please send items to: **MRS/Catholic Charities, 80 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 | tel: 703.520.4011.**)

2. **(Very) Gently Used Furniture** (Pictures are very helpful to determine if donations can be accepted!) – Currently, the following can ONLY ACCEPT:

Dining Room Tables & Chairs

Medium to small sofas, couches

MRS/CC will arrange with you to pick-up and drop-off, preferably directly to the new apartments found for arrivals. Please be patient – as you can imagine their staff & warehouse space are stretched to the limit. Contact: Belayneh Loppisso | Belayneh.Loppisso@ccda.net | 571.292.2259

3. **GIFT CARDS** - Gift cards for **Target** or **Walmart** are most welcome! MRS/CC distribute these cards to families so that they can purchase personal items, household needs, and groceries. Denominations of \$25 or \$50 are best.

Again, thank you for your interest and help! If you any have questions, please email: lourdes.iglesias@ccda.net for further information.

Lourdes Iglesias

Community Engagement Specialist, Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington

office: 703.520.4011 | website: www.ccda.net

<https://www.ccda.net/give-help/donate-goods-and-transportation/help-immigrants-and-refugees/>