

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.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

January 26, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

1945—2025

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

Office Hours

Horas de oficina

Monday-Friday — 8:30am to 4:30pm
Lunes a viernes — 8:30am a 4:30pm

Website / sitioweb:

www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org

Live Stream Mass Schedule:

Horario de Misas de transmisión en directo:

Jan 25-26— 9:30am and 1pm Spanish
25-26 enero 9:30am y 1pm en español

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)

He had anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Luke 4:18



Me ha ungido para llevar a
los pobres la buena nueva.

Lucas 4,18

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:

CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA:

LA IGLESIA EN AMÉRICA LATINA

NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:

ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HERALD

COLECTA DEL FIN DE SEMANA PRÓXIMO:

PERIÓDICO DIOCESANO HERALD

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.

NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ

26 de enero de 2025

Tercer Domingo en el Tiempo Ordinario

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION / PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL

Baptism / Bautizo:

Please email Baptism Coordinator Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los bautizos, Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

Marriage Preparation/ Preparación para el matrimonio:

Please contact the parish office at least six months before your 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

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

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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$9,797

Faith Direct (January Average / promedio del mes de enero): \$13,610

WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/

MISAL PALABRA Y EUCARISTÍA

Today's readings can be found on page 846

Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 847

BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN

Wednesday 9am — office@olqpva.org

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US /

NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR: Suri Barahona, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Chris Comer, Jeff Cory, Adele Crump, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiCerbo, Calista Downey, Tim Felker, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yvette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Joseph Funk, Iva Futrell, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Fred Gladbach, Nancy Gormley, Yolanda Gregorio, Jo Marie Griesgraber, Fr. Tuck Grinnell, Melanie Guitreaux, Joe Harrington, Harris Family, Sally Hars, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Pamela Hoeft, Patrick Hynes, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, John Lawyer, Kathleen Love, 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, Betty Mills, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Dan Morrisey, Rosemary Morrisey, Luis R. Muñoz, Zoe A. Muñoz, Chelsea Murray, Connie Murray, Ellen Murray, Paul Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Karen Newman, Stephen Nutter, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Carol Pacello, Roy Paco, Neil Parent, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Paul Ramirez, Santos Ramirez, Jeanna Reynolds, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Jane Shepard, Donna Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Lora Smolenski, Eva Souza, Grace Starbird, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Carmelita and Roy Tucker, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Utley, Alma Reyes Valentin, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Jim Webster, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TERCER DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 (69C); 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27;

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Nehemías 8,2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 (69C); 1 Corintios 12,12-14, 27;

Lucas 1,1-4; 4,14-21

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FIESTA DE LA PRESENTACIÓN DEL SEÑOR

Malachi 3:1-4 (524C); Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Malaquías 3:1-4 (524C); Hebreos 2,14-18; Lucas 2,22-40 or 2,22-32

MASS INTENTIONS, JANUARY 25-31

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 25-31 ENERO

TERCER DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Saturday, January 25th

5:30 pm Cecilia L. & Alexander L. Kostka (D) by their children

Sunday, January 26th

8:00 am For The Parish

9:30 am Fr. Joseph Hackett, CSSp (D) by the parish

11:15 am Cassandra Edith Acevedo Sassieta (D) by María Teresa Laguna

1:00 pm Martha Barahona (D) by the Lovo family

6:00 pm For The Parish

Monday, January 27th

12:00 pm Guadalupe & Gerardo Schaart Barrundia (Birthday) (D) by

Luis & Zoe A. Muñoz

Tuesday, January 28th

12:00 pm Monica Payawal (Anniversary) (D) by Marjorie Berdan

Wednesday, January 29th

12:00 pm Alfredo Venancio (D) by Lilia Koechlin

Thursday, January 30th

12:00 pm Vicente Muñoz Gámez (Birthday) (D)

by Luis, Zoe A. Muñoz & family

Friday, January 31st

12:00 pm Tom O'Connor (D) by Julie Ibinson

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH /

VIDA SACRAMENTAL DE LA PARROQUIA

This weekend we welcome two new Christians. Este fin de semana le damos la bienvenida a dos nuevos cristianos.

Cameron James Penn & Grace Alexandra Martin

Baptized January 25 / Bautizados el 25 de enero

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

Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado: **Fr. Pontien Kenfack, CSSp**, pkenfack@olqpva.org

Deacon / Diácono: **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org

Parish Office / Oficina parroquial

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

A Consistent Ethic of Life Catholic Community

JUST A THOUGHT... or two...

Witnesses to the Truth

Folks, young and old and everyone in between, African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, every single one of us are being impacted by the new administration in Washington DC. We absolutely cannot pretend that it's not wreaking havoc on our nation and particularly today our sisters and brothers, who are immigrants and refugees, the very people whom Jesus Christ says we are to welcome and to give shelter!

I would like to point out, that in Matthew 25, Jesus makes welcoming the stranger, sheltering the homeless and feeding the hungry, NOT a suggestion, but rather makes it the condition for admittance to eternal life. And those who do not offer shelter and welcome to the stranger and the homeless, and do not feed the hungry and clothe the naked, according to the words of Jesus Christ, **they have not done so for him**, and will be cast out into eternal damnation.

And so while I know, "I am preaching to the choir," I want to make it perfectly clear that if we are to practice our faith, we can only do so by welcoming the stranger, sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned!

Please let me be very clear on one thing, this is not "my interpretation" of sacred scripture it is a very plain and simple recitation of the very words attributed to Jesus Christ according to the gospel of Matthew!

However, a judge in Texas, has closed down a Roman Catholic shelter for the homeless, claiming they are harboring and aiding and abetting illegal aliens! He, who claims to be a Christian, says they are in no way practicing their faith in the running of the shelter. They are claiming that they are in fact, practicing their faith through the very act of sheltering the homeless and feeding the hungry. Through these acts, they claim they are

carrying out the mandate of Jesus Christ. I would reiterate, that in Matthew 25 Jesus did not "suggest" welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, giving water to the thirsty and visiting the sick and the imprisoned. Jesus mandated doing these actions. He made these actions the conditions upon which we will be judged in the final judgment, when we come face-to-face with our God!

And yet these people are being denied the practice of their faith by this judge in Texas because the majority of the people they serve are undocumented immigrants, strangers in a strange land... "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34)

Let us stand up and be witnesses to the truth in the face of lies and disinformation!

The official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church is that all human beings, regardless of their socioeconomic and political status have basic human rights and those rights must not and can not be violated. When those basic human rights are violated, we -- you and I -- are called to stand up and speak out! It does not matter who the violator is, or violators are, we are called by our discipleship of Jesus Christ to stand up and speak the truth on behalf of all of those whose, God given, human dignity and human rights are being violated.

When immigrants and refugees are broadly painted to be criminals and unsavory people, we know it is a lie, and those who say it are liars! So let us speak the truth in the face of lies and disinformation and through our actions, be witnesses to the truth, and let us **all, everyone of us**, be judged by our words and our actions, be they unwelcoming, hateful, and self-seeking or be they welcoming, compassionate, and grace filled!

Blessings,

Fr. Tim

PARISH ADVISORY BOARD – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Did you know OLQP has elected lay leadership that supports Fr. Tim and parish activities? Parish Advisory Board (PAB) members commit to attend bimonthly meetings (currently 2nd Thursday of the month), serve on committees as needed, and listen to and present parishioners' views. The PAB strives to represent the many backgrounds, ages, mass cohorts, and ministry groups of the parish. Six (6) seats are up for election, with new members serving a two-year term. Registered parishioners who have been active for at least two years are eligible and encouraged to consider the PAB – nominate yourself or a fellow parishioner. Nomination slips are available in the sanctuary, or you may submit nominations via email to carlsonbsa@gmail.com. (Please include the nominee's full name, phone number, and email address). The nomination period closes at the end of the day on Sunday, February 2.

JUNTA CONSULTORA DE LA PARROQUIA – ¡LLAMADO DE CANDIDATURAS!

¿Sabía que OLQP ha elegido un liderazgo de personas laicas que apoya al Padre Tim y las actividades parroquiales? Los miembros de la junta consultora de la parroquia (PAB por sus siglas en inglés) se comprometen a asistir a reuniones bimensuales (actualmente el 2do jueves del mes), a servir en comités cuando es necesario y a escuchar a las personas de la parroquia y a presentar sus opiniones. La PAB se esmera por representar las muchas experiencias, edades, grupos de Misas y grupos de ministerios de la parroquia. Hay seis (6) puestos para llenar y las personas nuevas sirven un término de dos años. Feligreses inscritos que han sido miembros activos por un período mínimo de 2 años son elegibles y se les anima a considerar la PAB – puede nominarse o nominar a otra persona. En el santuario hay boletas para nominaciones o puede someter las nominaciones por correo electrónico – carlsonbsa@gmail.com. (Por favor incluya el nombre completo de la persona nominada, número de teléfono y correo electrónico.) El período de nominación cierra al final del día el domingo, 2 de febrero.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

- **YOUTH MINISTRY TEEN NIGHT** resumes this week. We meet Sundays, 7:00pm in 1915 S Edgewood Street. Bring a friend!
- **CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP** spaces are filling, sign up soon! We are heading to Morganton, North Carolina, near Asheville, July 13-19th for a week of service, faith development, and fun for rising 9th - 12th graders! Possible worksites include working farms, an orphanage, churches, and Habitat for Humanity build sites, as well as local government agencies. Adult volunteers are also needed! Apply, here: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVACHWC2025> or scan the QR code:



NOTICIAS DEL MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES:

- **NOCHE DE ADOLESCENTES DEL MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES** se reanuda esta semana. Nos reunimos los domingos a las 7:00pm en 1915 S Edgewood Street. ¡Trae a una amiga o a un amigo!
- Los espacios para el **CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP** se están llenando, ¡apúntate rápido! Vamos a ir a Morganton, North Carolina, cerca de Asheville, del 13 al 18 de julio para pasar una semana ofreciendo servicio, desarrollando la fe y divirtiéndonos. ¡Es para futuros estudiantes de los grados 9 al 12! Lugares donde posiblemente se trabajará incluyen granjas en funcionamiento, un orfanato, iglesias, lugares donde Habitat for Humanity tiene sitios de construcción, como agencias del gobierno. ¡También se necesitan personas adultas a servir de voluntarias! Inscríbete aquí:
- <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVACHWC2025> o escanea el código QR:

2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Please watch for your 2024 contribution statement in the mail. Statements detailing your 2024 donations are being mailed through the end of the month. Please note: USPS service in our area has been sporadic so please be patient; however, if you have not received your statement by the second week in February please email or call Christina, ckozy@olqpva.org, 703-979-5580, to have a copy emailed or resent. Thank you.

MATTHEW 25 -- Please review your outerwear closets and donate gently used or new jackets for men, women, and children. Car-coat lengths work best for our predominantly petit client base; longer length coats tend to linger in the store. Thank you for your continued support.

FAITH DIRECT ONLINE GIVING

The new year, through Christ, is filled with hope as we seek to respond to the needs of our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2025, Our Lady Queen of Peace is reaching out to you, our parishioners.

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2025 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving. You can set up a recurring donation for Sunday Offertory or make a one-time gift to any number of our ministries by visiting faith.direct/VA271 or calling 866-507-8757. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.
Blessings, Fr. Tim, Fr. Martin and Fr. Pontien

CERTIFICACIÓN DE CONTRIBUCIÓN DEL 2024

Espere la certificación de su contribución de sus donaciones del 2024 a la parroquia. Las certificaciones detallando sus donaciones se están enviando de ahora hasta finales de mes. Por favor tome nota: el servicio de correo en nuestra área ha estado esporádico así que por favor tenga paciencia, pero si no ha recibido la certificación para la segunda semana de febrero por favor mándele un correo electrónico o llame a Christina, ckozy@olqpva.org, 703-979-5580 para recibir una copia por correo electrónico o para volver a recibirla. Gracias.

MATEO 25 -- Por favor, revise sus **roperos/armarios** y done chaquetas nuevas o poco usadas para hombres, mujeres, niñas y niños. Las chaquetas menos largas son mejores para la clientela menudita porque las chaquetas y abrigos más largos suelen permanecer en la tienda. Gracias por su continuo apoyo.

DONACIÓN EN LÍNEA POR FAITH DIRECT

El nuevo año está lleno de esperanza y promesa al nosotros tratar de responder a las necesidades de nuestros ministerios vitales, al explorar nuevas maneras de compartir las buenas nuevas del amor de Cristo y reflexionar sobre su cuidado y misericordia hacia las personas necesitadas por toda la comunidad. Para continuar marcando una diferencia en 2025, Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dirige a ustedes, nuestros feligreses. Empiece el nuevo año con eGiving para ayudar a mantener y edificar ministerios durante 2025 que reflejen la promesa constante del amor de Dios. La necesidad es grande en nuestra comunidad y sus generosas donaciones en línea van a ayudar a personas a nuestro alrededor. Solicitamos en oración que considere apuntarse para eGiving. Puede programar una donación recurrente para el Ofertorio del domingo o donar solo una vez a cualquiera de nuestros muchos ministerios al ir a faith.direct/VA271 o llamar al 866-507-8757. Gracias por su continuo apoyo de nuestra familia parroquial.
Bendiciones, Padre Tim, Padre Martín y Padre Pontien

*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.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR PARISH FAMILY!

2025 Josephite Calendars are available at the back of church. Please take one for you family's use at home.

ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE: Since the 2025 Virginia General Assembly convened on January 8 there has been a LOT of legislation under consideration. Decisions have been forthcoming and new laws are scheduled to begin. Many organizations and communities of faith have already completed advocacy days in Richmond in order to bring messages of support and opposition to the attention of the elected Members, who we must remember, work for us!

Pilgrims of Hope spoke with Members about the current practice of shackling youth offenders during court appearances. Many hope-full advocates told legislators that access to voting ought to be restored after offenders have completed their incarceration. Other healthcare advocates encouraged elected Members to require continuing education on unconscious bias and cultural competency to ensure appropriate care for a diverse population. Caring advocates ask that labor and delivery units remain open in locations known as "maternity care deserts". And more if the General Assembly and Legislative Information System (LIS) websites (*links in last week's bulletin*) is any indication.

Pope Francis reminds us *Pilgrims of Hope* that we are "to recover lost hope, renew that hope in our hearts and sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and our world..."

Here's a good reminder of our power: "One voice can change a room, and if one voice can change a room, then it can change a city, and if it can change a city, it can change a state, and if it can change a state, it can change a nation, and if it can change a nation, it can change the world. Your voice can change the world." — *Barack Obama*

DO YOU WANT TO NAVIGATE DISAGREEMENT IN A HEALTHIER WAY? *Want to Talk? Communication Tools for Divided Times* is an eight-session small group program that guides you in deepening your relationships while staying true to your values. This program draws upon the wisdom of experts in nonviolent communication, civil dialogue, and grassroots organizing, providing practical tools for navigating the political polarization of our time, as well as tough conversations with our loved ones. Program begins Feb 10, in-person. For more information, click here [Learn More](#) or contact Michele Chang, rise2gthr@gmail.com

NEWS FROM MEDOR AND THE OLQP HAITI MINISTRY

Last weekend's OLQP bulletin announcement about Haiti included news that St. Joseph parishioner Madanm. (Mrs. in Haitian Kreyòl) Bijoux Monique borrowed 27 pounds of crop seeds from the parish's agroforestry program; however, that's not the only way the program is helping her. During the last six months the program's "Passing Gift" component lent Madanm. Monique a female goat. She agreed that the goat's first two kids will be passed on to other community members. Afterwards, Madanm. Monique will own the goat and any additional kids. Livestock ownership in Medor is thought of as a family's savings account. For example, an animal can be sold if funds are needed, and goats can be used for milk, additional kids can be sold, and for food if necessary. Currently there are 399 goats in the Passing Gift Program, each one a cherished possession. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this wonderful program, making a big difference in the lives of so many. Please pray for peace and security in Haiti.

SPIRITUAL CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Inova's Alexandria and Mount Vernon Hospital Volunteer Chaplain programs are inviting people of all faith traditions to join their team to help provide spiritual and emotional support to a diverse population of patients and family members. Lay or ordained members are welcome to apply.

A thorough orientation and training are provided, along with regular ongoing education opportunities. Be assured that your safety and wellbeing are paramount. We function in ways that maximize your wellbeing and safety.

We are seeking:

- Compassionate, emotionally healthy individuals.
- Openness to supporting people of diverse spiritual, ethnic, lifestyle backgrounds. (Proselytizing, witnessing or attempting to convert are never permitted.)
- Are comfortable working with computers.
- A commitment of four hours per week. (Daytime/weekday only. No evening or weekend options at this time.)

Please contact us with any questions and/or to request an application form. For Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, contact refia.tonguc@inova.org and for Inova Alexandria Hospital, contact William.Tweedley@inova.org. Application deadline is February 15, 2025.

2025 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL (BLA) BEGINS!

The 2025 BLA mailing was recently sent to parishioners. This year's theme is: "Abounding in Hope." After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider a pledge. Sharing your gifts with the 40+ ministries and programs funded by the BLA truly impacts the lives of thousands across our diocese. You can make a gift at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code here:



SCAN ME



2025 Office of Catholic Schools
Job Fair Registration

2025 TEACHER JOB FAIR

The Office of Catholic Schools is holding the 2025 TEACHER JOB FAIR at St. Bernadette School in Springfield, VA on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 9 - 11 AM. Principals from over 30 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington will be available to meet with

teaching candidates for the 2025-2026 school year. To register in Advance, please go to this link and complete the online form - <https://forms.office.com/r/5VEiXMSmAG> or scan the QR.

For questions, please

email catholicschools@arlingtondiocese.org.

ECO-TIP from the Integrity of Creation Ministry: Consider investing in an energy-efficient heat pump to warm your home. Heat pumps operate like a refrigerator in reverse, efficiently bringing in heat from outside when it's colder. Heat pumps often contain a less-efficient electric resistance heater for auxiliary heating. But by limiting temperature increases to 1-2 degrees at a time, you can avoid triggering auxiliary heating unnecessarily.

STORIES FROM THEOLOGY ON TAP

In 2025 we celebrate 25 years of Theology on Tap here in the Diocese of Arlington and we want to celebrate that! We'd love to hear how this ministry has impacted your life: whether you met your spouse, discovered your vocation, entered the Church, made a significant life decision after attending a talk, or met your best friends, your story is powerful and inspiring. By sharing your experience, you'll help others see the lasting impact of this ministry and the way God works through it. Please take a few moments to share your story with us! <https://forms.office.com/r/LhUtUs0h5v>

HELP OUR PARISH SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC HERALD

The Arlington Catholic Herald is the official newspaper and news source of the Diocese of Arlington. This award-winning, biweekly newspaper delivers Catholic news and information about our diocese, U.S. bishops and the Vatican to approximately 100,000 homes across Virginia and beyond — and 24-7 at catholicherald.com. Please consider donating to the annual second collection February 1-2, 2025, which helps our parish support the Catholic Herald in spreading the Good News. You may make a check payable to OLQP and please write "ACH Second Collection" on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America!
This weekend, January 25/26
¡Apoye la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina!

REGISTER FOR VIRGINIA PRO-LIFE DAY 2025

Join us for Virginia Pro-Life Day on January 29, 2025 in Richmond! Meet with your legislators to advocate for pro-life causes. Be a part of the effort to preserve human dignity in Virginia as we mobilize pro-lifers to be a voice for the voiceless. With majorities in both the Senate and the House poised to pass extreme abortion legislation, it is vital that pro-lifers show up in large numbers. After your meetings with legislators, a Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout. Learn more and register at vaprolifeday.org.

vaprolifeday.org



Scan to register

**VIRGINIA
PRO-LIFE DAY**

JANUARY 29TH, 2025 REGISTER TODAY

We need your voice!

The Suffering to Come

Lying about immigration lays the groundwork for mass deportation.

[Brett C. Hoover](#)

“Why didn’t the Biden Administration shut down and seal the border?” The question, posted on my social-media account, came a few days after the 2024 election from an old friend of mine, a diocesan priest. He seemed to imply that if Biden had done so, Kamala Harris might have won the election. My friend was a politically involved Democrat in his youth, but long ago he joined the exodus of Catholic pro-life voters into the GOP. He is a traditional Catholic by temperament, and the Republican Party seemed to suit him. But our polarized politics have left him with limited access to thinking on the other side. I took his question as sincere.

Mass migration is a global phenomenon. According to the United Nations, 281 million people—about 3.5 percent of the world’s population—live in a nation other than where they were born. The sheer volume of migration makes it easier for nationalist populist politicians to exploit it—Marine Le Pen in France, Giorgia Meloni in Italy, and Donald Trump in the United States. But “shutting down the border” is rhetoric; it doesn’t amount to policy or law. Actually “shutting down” the southern border would bring billions of dollars in trade to a halt, strand U.S. and Mexican citizens on either side, and end all family or tourist travel via land. When Trump said he “shut down the border” in 2020 and when Biden claimed to do the same in summer 2024, what both largely did was curtail opportunities for people to make asylum claims. U.S. law allows people who belong to a persecuted group—due to their race, religion, politics, nationality, or other identity markers they cannot simply shake off—to request asylum either at the border or once inside the United States. Unlike most U.S. immigration laws, there are no numerical limits on asylum claims,

since asylum is meant to ensure safety and save lives.

In his first term, Trump repeatedly tried to prevent or deter asylum claims at the southern border, through increased use of detention, banning asylum for those who had traveled through a third country without requesting asylum there, and other means. In 2018, his administration referred all migrants at the border for prosecution—the “zero tolerance policy” that separated thousands of children from their parents. At the outset of the pandemic in 2020, Trump invoked Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act of 1944, which allowed him to deny entry to noncitizens in order to prevent the spread of Covid, effectively closing the border to migrants. Over time these efforts created pent-up demand among prospective immigrants, and after Biden took office, the number of migrants at the border increased, peaking in the hundreds of thousands a month in late 2023.

The rationale for “closing the border” matters as much as these policy details. Many Republicans (and my old friend) cite a spurious connection between immigration and crime. But there is ample evidence that immigration, including illegal immigration, does not lead to increases in violent crime; indeed, during our recent era of higher immigration, crime has been decreasing. The research is clear. In one study of forty cities over four decades, increased immigration was associated with *less* crime. A 2018 study found that a greater number of undocumented immigrants tends to lower crime rates. A 2020 study from Texas state arrest records found that native-born citizens and legal immigrants have a significantly higher propensity for crime than undocumented immigrants. All of this makes sense. Immigrants, especially those without authorization, wish to

avoid entanglements with the law. The reality is that the slim plurality of Americans who voted for Donald Trump have entrusted him with stopping an immigrant crime wave that does not exist.

Of course, none of this stopped Trump, his campaign surrogates, or certain conservative media outlets from pushing this false connection. In other words, they lied. This disinformation (intentionally delivered) turned into misinformation (unintentionally spread), and soon enough you had people like my friend presuming the truth of a lie. Because there is no evidence to confirm a link between immigration and crime, the Trump campaign relied on one lurid story in particular, the murder of a University of Georgia nursing student by a young Venezuelan immigrant. They omitted mention of other recent murders of college students, such as four University of Idaho students in 2022, or six college students shot and killed in mass shootings in 2022 and 2023. All the perpetrators in those cases were native-born U.S. citizens.

Although there is no immigrant crime wave, certain social trends make it easier for people to believe in one. As crime researcher Charles Fain Lehman has shown, people feel that crime has gone up, even when it has not, if they notice more of what Lehman calls public disorder. He is referring to the visibility of certain uncomfortable social problems: street homelessness, uncollected trash, public drug use, graffiti, shoplifting, and fare-beating on public transportation. Some of these aren’t illegal, while others are minor crimes, but as Lehman points out, police sometimes intentionally neglect enforcement in these areas to focus their attention on serious crimes. People nevertheless look at the public disarray and feel uneasy, and this leads to calls for increased enforcement, such

as criminalizing sleeping outdoors or increasing penalties for shoplifting.

A similar dynamic is at work in the push for immigration enforcement. Most immigrants never cross the southern border, and most of what happens occurs in a strikingly orderly way. People and goods pass through ports of entry. Border Patrol conducts professional inspections. When asylum seekers turn themselves in, they generally do so at pre-approved times and places in a disciplined manner. On occasion, though, the border offers unpleasant images of public disorder: soaking families emerging from the Rio Grande, ragged people led to lonely places by smugglers, trash left on ranches, busloads of passengers disembarking on the streets of major cities.

Yet even when large numbers arrive at once, it is not impossible to imagine the federal government responding with sufficient funds, agents, and infrastructure to handle the influx in an orderly way. President Biden waited too long to ask for more resources, and then Republicans in Congress stalled subsequent attempts to better manage border logistics, correctly guessing that prolonged disorder would benefit them in the 2024 election. Years-long processing backlogs have become legendary. Cities and towns with a large influx of asylum seekers found themselves unable to get any help. President Biden finally managed to reduce the numbers of persons amassing at the border in early 2024, mostly by lobbying the Mexican government to increase enforcement on their side. When a bipartisan bill restricting asylum failed during the election campaign, Biden invoked section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 to limit asylum to only the small number of people with appointments arranged using the CBP One app. Numbers dropped precipitously—yet even as the logistical crisis passed, the call for stricter enforcement remained, driven in part by repetition of the false narrative linking immigration and crime.

There are real crises in American life today, from persistent economic ine-

quality to opioid addiction to homelessness, and President-elect Trump's promise of mass deportation won't address any of them. But his plan *would* cause a great deal of human suffering—separating families, hollowing out immigrant neighborhoods, financially ruining millions of mixed-status households, and shipping thousands of young people back to countries they do not remember and whose languages they cannot speak. Some economists worry that a high volume of deportations will trigger inflation as supply chains buckle due to labor shortages. The agriculture, construction, and hospitality industries, which rely on the labor of undocumented immigrants, will be decimated.

An underreported aspect of stricter enforcement is that it often does not work, simply because it does not address the reasons people migrate or the labor markets that rely on immigrants. Enforcement measures can even paradoxically cause more immigration. One economist recently showed that the deportation of gang members after the passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act in 1996 correlated with a dramatic increase in gang activity and homicide in at least one Central American country. Such threats to safety inevitably lead to migration, including to the United States. Indeed, anyone who has visited a migrant shelter in recent years has heard multiple stories of Guatemalans or Hondurans leaving to escape extortion by criminal gangs back home. The two largest gangs—MS-13 and Barrio 18—trace their origins to the United States.

Disinformation has created justification for all the damage to come. Yet as my colleague, journalism professor Rubén Martínez, observes, the antidote to disinformation is not accurate information alone. Fighting disinformation also requires truthful and compelling storytelling. Back during my ministry days, I worked with talented and committed Catholic immigrants who served as lectors and Eucharistic ministers, youth-ministry mentors, religious educators, and leaders of altar societies and prayer groups. Some were in the country with-

out authorization, mostly by overstaying visas, a smaller number by crossing the border. In one small Midwestern city where I studied and served, immigrant workers had revitalized the local economy, and the presence of their families saved the local Catholic school.

Many Catholic leaders—bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders—know stories like these, and during the election they could have been talking about how immigrants have contributed to Catholic parishes, ministries, and schools. They could have been sharing personal anecdotes about the good works they have seen. A few spoke up, like Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio, after attacks by Trump and J. D. Vance on Haitian immigrants in his state. But if many bishops were in fact worried by Trump's campaign promises, as Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso observes, then not many joined Seitz in speaking up. I can't help but wonder whether my priest friend, who does not work in an immigrant parish, would have seen through the disinformation if he had heard more positive stories about immigrants from his fellow priests.

I hope, as the new government ramps up its deportation efforts, that more Catholic leaders speak honestly and publicly about the contributions immigrants make in their Catholic communities. Recent statements defending immigrant rights from the bishops of New Mexico and the leadership of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are promising signs, but they lack the visceral punch of personal stories. I hope to hear a more intimate kind of witness about what immigrants do for our Church. I fear, instead, that what we will get, outside of the scattered prophetic voices, is a resounding silence.

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