

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

April 27, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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:

April 26-27 5:30pm and 1pm Spanish

26-27 abril 5:30pm y 1pm en español

MASSES / MISAS:

Weekdays / *Días laborables:*

Mon-Thu 12pm / *lunes a jueves 12pm*

Fri. 6pm / *Viernes 6pm*

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)

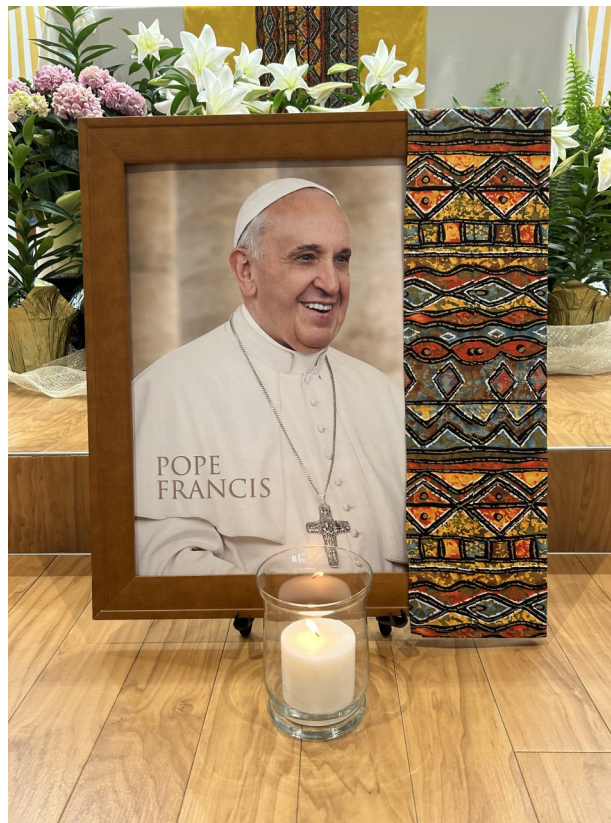
Domingos — 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,

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 Beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis

12-17-1936 – 04-21-2025

May he rest in the loving embrace of our God.

Nuestro Amado Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco

17-12-1936 - 21-04-2025

Que descanse en los abrazos amoroso de nuestro Dios.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA:

LLAMAMIENTO DE LAS MISIONES DEL HOGAR CATÓLICO



NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ

27 de abril de 2025

Segundo Domingo de Pascua

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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$11,714
Holy Thursday / Jueves Santo: \$1,588
Holy Land Shrines/ Santruarios de Tierra Santa: \$2,905
Faith Direct - April Average / promedio del mes de abril: \$15,351

WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/ MISAL PALABRA Y EUCHARISTÍA

Today's readings can be found on page 786
Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 787

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, Mary Callow, 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, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Pamela Hoeft, Patrick Hynes, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Alexa LaRue, 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, Rosemary Morrissey, 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, Nancy Urquizo, Alma Reyes Valentin, Dan Van Belleghem, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Jim Webster, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Acts 5:12-16 (45C); Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31
Hechos 5,12-16 (45C); Apocalipsis 1,9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Juan 20,19-31

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

TERCER DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 (48C); Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
Hechos 5,27-32, 40b-41 (48C); Apocalipsis 5,11-14; Juan 21,1-19

MASS INTENTIONS, APRIL 26 – MAY 2

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 26 ABRIL – 2 MAYO

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Saturday, April 26th

5:30 pm Anne-Marie Ndiaye by Francois & Louise Ba

Sunday, April 27th

8:00 am For The Parish

9:30 am Amare Gerbo & Tewabech Kassa (D)

by Alemnesh Gerbo

11:15 am Wally Reyes (D) by Judith Francia-Reyes & family

1:00 pm The Feast of Divine Mercy by the parish

6:00 pm For The Parish

Monday, April 28th

12:00 pm Anthony Harris (D) by Minkisi Ministry

Tuesday, April 29th

12:00 pm Billie Bready (Birthday) (D) by Barry & Cindy Wilson

Wednesday, April 30th

12:00 pm Margarita F. Villaluz (D) by Judith Francia-Reyes

Thursday, May 1st

11:00 am - Funeral Mass-Sally Harrs

Friday, May 2nd

12:00 pm Corazón Yabes (Birthday) (D) by Yabes family

IN MEMORIAM

SARAH "SALLY" HARRS

Sally was a faithful member of the Saturday Vigil Mass for more than 40 years until her health began to fail; she was a dedicated Lector for all those years. View her obituary [here](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/sarah-harrs-obituary?id=57907397):

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/sarah-harrs-obituary?id=57907397>

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at OLQP on Thursday, May 1, at 11am.

CONGRATULATIONS! / ¡FELICIDADES!

Abigail Knight and Matthew DiGilio

Married April 26 / Casados el 26 de abril

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH / VIDA SACRAMENTAL DE LA PARROQUIA

This weekend we welcome one new Christian. Este fin de semana le damos la bienvenida a una nueva cristiana.

Rose Kelley Richman

Baptized April 26/ Bautizada el 26 de abril

A Consistent Ethic of Life Catholic Community

JUST A THOUGHT... or two...

Doubt is a perennial reality of the Christian life and in today's Gospel we see that it has been so since the very beginning. My grandmother used to say that "a little doubt is good for the soul".

When we experience doubt, I believe it means that we may well be really engaging in and wrestling with the Christian mystery on a deeper level. And I think this is exactly what Pope Francis was calling us all to do: to think more deeply about our faith and how we lived it out with the people we encountered; how we live the peace of Christ and share it; how we make it real to the wounded and marginalized.

I think that Thomas gets a bit of a bad rap, being remembered as "doubting Thomas" down through the centuries, we may forget that Thomas is one of the very first human beings to ever hear of the resurrection of Christ. Imagine what it must have been like for the first hearers of the resurrection story -- it must have sounded amazing! They must have all held some disbelief and shock that Jesus, whom they had seen die on the cross, was now alive and appearing to the disciples, speaking to them and eating with them.

Imagine what it must have been like for the disciples. They had pinned all their hopes on this man Jesus and then they saw him executed by the Romans. All their hopes hung on that cross and seemed to die with him. Then, in the midst of their trembling and fear, and their deep disappointment, Jesus appears to them and imparts to them "his peace" -- the peace of the Risen Christ!

And then he breaths on them and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift was to embolden them as he sent them out into the world to proclaim the Good News that death had been defeated, our sins were forgiven and even though our bodies die, we will live forever!

The peace of Christ is at the center of Christian life and at the center of the Easter story. This peace is like no other peace. It is Christ's peace. It is a transformative peace that flows forth from the Risen One...directly from God to us. And when we accept this peace of Christ into our soul, it has the power to transform us, to make us more peace-filled, more Christ-like.

In this Easter season let us open our hearts and minds to the presence of the Holy Spirit who is calling us and emboldening us to proclaim the peace of Christ to all the world.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved spiritual leader, Pope Francis, let us recall his call to build communities of radical welcoming, of peace and inclusion where love, mercy and forgiveness are the hallmarks of our discipleship of Jesus Christ.

And let us pray, that this "peace of the Risen Christ" may settle upon Ukraine, the Middle East and South Sudan, and all places of war and suffering.

Let us ask ourselves, how can I show forth Christ's peace in my daily life...and how might I share it with the people around me, especially now, in the midst of all of the chaos and discord in our country?

May the peace of the Risen One be with you always,

Fr. Tim

MATTHEW 25: The season has finally changed, and we are now collecting only spring and summer items. We appreciate your generosity with winter donations, but we do not have space for winter items until September. Please hold your winter items until the fall. Thank you for your continued support.

FOOD PANTRY: We need drivers who can pick up food at two different locations. This is to help us with stocking our pantry each week. For more information, please contact Sally Diaz-Wells at sdiazwells@olqpva.org.

MATEO 25: Por fin el tiempo ha cambiado y ahora estamos recogiendo solo ropa de primavera y verano. Apreciamos su generosidad con las donaciones de invierno, pero no vamos a tener espacio para ropa de invierno hasta septiembre. Por favor guarde su ropa de invierno hasta el otoño. Gracias por su continuo apoyo.

DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS: Necesitamos personas para conducir y recoger comida en dos lugares diferentes. Esto es para ayudar con el abastecimiento de nuestra despensa cada semana. Para obtener más información, por favor contacte a Sally Díaz-Wells: sdiazwells@olqpva.org.

Una comunidad católica con una ética consistente con la vida

FEDERAL WORKERS -- We will gather on Tuesday, May 13, at 7pm in the Library of Father Ray Hall. The theme will be *Moving beyond being Fed up* and the second topic being discussed is *Career Advancement*. Please join us for these hours of information and fellowship.

TWO EARTH DAY OBSERVANCES:

- **Seed Distribution at all Masses this Weekend!**
This weekend marks the 55th Anniversary of Earth Day, which was launched on April 22, 1970, to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Celebratory activities center around five components: citizen science, volunteering, community engagement, education, and the role of art. To mark this anniversary the Integrity of Creation Ministry will be distributing seed packets, wildflower seed paper circles, and "The ABCs of Living Green" postcards for children.
- **Community Dinner "Greening Our Money"**
2nd Annual Parish-wide Earth Day Vigil Mass & Dinner on Saturday, May 3rd with a noted speaker and complimentary earth-friendly dinner. (see insert on page 7 for details)

CHRIST IS RISEN! As His disciples, we are called to go forth and spread the good news of Christ's Resurrection. The fruitful ministries at our parish are examples of how many of you have answered, and continue to answer, that call. To ensure such work can continue requires not only gifts of time, but also of financial help. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through Faith Direct.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA271 or call their Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.

BASH 2025! MIDDLE SCHOOL DIOCESAN EVENT

Join Catholic middle school students from around the Diocese of Arlington (6th-8th graders) in celebration of our Catholic faith and love of the Lord. This event includes music, games – Gaga Ball, rock climbing wall, inflatables, food – pizza, Rita's, Smiley's Ice Cream, inspirational speakers, confessions, and a Vigil Mass for Sunday, with Bishop Burbidge. Please contact Rebecca, Youth & Young Adult Minister, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org, to sign up.

WHEN: Saturday, May 10, 3:30 pm - 8:30 pm

WHERE: Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington

COST: \$15.00 per participant (youth and adults)

TRABAJADORES FEDERALES – Nos vamos a reunir el martes, 13 de mayo, a las 7pm en la Biblioteca de Father Ray Hall. El tema va a ser *Más allá del estar harto* y el Segundo tema que se discutirá es *Desarrollo profesional*. Por favor únase a nosotros para estas horas informativas y diversión

DOS OBSERVANCIAS DEL DÍA DE LA TIERRA:

- **Distribución de semillas este fin de semana en todas las Misas!**
Este fin de semana marca el 55 aniversario del Día de la Tierra, que empezó el 22 de abril, 1970, para demostrar apoyo por la protección del medioambiente. Las actividades para celebrarlo se centran en cinco componentes: ciencia cívica, trabajo voluntario, participación comunitaria, educación y el papel que el arte desempeña. Para marcar este aniversario el Equipo del ministerio de la integridad de la creación va a distribuir paquetes de semillas, círculos de papel de flores silvestres y tarjetas postales para niñas y niños "The ABCs of Living Green" (**Los ABC de vivir una vida ecológica**).
- **Cena comunitaria "Usando nuestros dólares ecológicamente"**
Misa de vigilia de la parroquia para el Segundo anual Día de la Tierra el sábado, 3 de mayo con un presentador destacado y una cena ecológica gratis. (Vea el encarte en la página 7 para obtener detalles.)

¡CRISTO HA RESUCITADO! Como sus discípulos, estamos llamados a salir y difundir las buenas nuevas de la resurrección de Cristo. Los ministerios fructíferos en nuestra parroquia son ejemplos de cuántos de ustedes han respondido y continúan respondiendo a esa llamada. Para asegurar que ese tipo de trabajo pueda continuar lo que se necesita no es solo donaciones de tiempo, sino ayuda financiera también. Le pido que considere en oración apoyar nuestra parroquia con donaciones electrónicas por medio de Faith Direct.

Inscríbese hoy al visitar faith.direct/VA271 o al llamar a su equipo de servicio al cliente: 866-507-8757.

¡BASH 2025! EVENTO DIOCESANO PARA ESTUDIANTES DE ESCUELA MEDIA

Únete a otros estudiantes católicos de escuela media de la Diócesis de Arlington (estudiantes de grados 6 a 8) para celebrar nuestra fe católica y nuestro amor por el Señor. Este evento incluye música, juegos – Gaga Ball, pared de escalada (rock climbing wall), hinchables (inflatables), comida – pizza, Rita's, helado de Smiley's, oradores inspiradores, confesiones y una Misa de vigilia para el domingo con el Obispo Burbidge. Por favor contacta a Rebecca, Ministro para adolescentes y jóvenes adultos, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org, para inscribirte.

CUÁNDO: el sábado, 10 de mayo, de 3:30 pm a 8:30 pm

DÓNDE: Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington

COSTO: \$15.00 por participante (jóvenes y adultos)

**2025 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL
Monthly Reminders!**

If you have not yet made a pledge to the BLA, please use this QR Code or complete one of the pledge envelopes in the pews.



**¡Recordatorios mensuales para LA
CAMPAÑA**

CUARESMA 2025 DEL OBISPO!


Si todavía no se ha comprometido a donar a la BLA, por favor use este código QR o complete un de los sobres de promesa en las bancas.



**LAST CHANCE - OLQP Jubilee of Youth
Fly Away Fundraiser Raffle!**

Raffle ends, Monday, April 28th!

We are raffling off four pairs of JetBlue® plane tickets to anywhere they [fly](#). Tickets may be used by 03/31/2026. Please note that upon booking a credit card will be required for taxes and fees. **All proceeds benefit OLQP Jubilee of Youth Pilgrims. Participants must be registered members of OLQP.** Raffle entries accepted until 11:59pm, Monday, April 28, 2025 **(Entries before or after these dates and times will not be accepted.)** \$50 per entry, multiple entries permitted. To enter go to: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAFLYAWAY> or scan the QR Code:

Please use the designated button on  **FaithDirect** to pay for entries and indicate “Fly Away” in note section. **(Entries will not be included in drawings unless payment has been received.)** Winners will be posted in the May 11th bulletin. **Good Luck!**

**WE'RE STILL ACCEPTING PHOTOS, ARTICLES,
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, AND MEMORABILIA
FOR OLQP'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY.**

If you have any of these OLQP items to share, we would be greatly appreciative. Please email scans of your material to Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgrantjenkins@olapva.org, or drop them off. They will be scanned and returned.

CRS RICE BOWL - This weekend marks the official end of the Rice Bowl campaign. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated. We hope that as you journeyed and prayed through Lent, that in some small way the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters around the world became more real. Because of your generosity, Catholic Relief Services will continue to assist people in 91 countries. 25% of the funds raised in our Diocese will remain to fund local programs that feed the hungry. “When I was hungry, you gave me to eat” is truly lived at Our Lady Queen of Peace. A collection basket is in the sanctuary to the right of the Baptismal Font. Checks for the amount of your donation can be made payable to OLQP with a notation of CRS Rice Bowl on the memo line.

**¡RIFA “FLY AWAY” PARA RECAUDAR FONDOS PARA EL
JUBILEO DE LOS PEREGRINOS ADOLESCENTES DE
OLQP!**

Empezando el lunes, 7 de abril, vamos a rifar cuatro pares de boletos para cualquier lugar que vuela JetBlue. Los boletos se pueden usar hasta la fecha límite del 31 marzo 2026. Por favor note que al hacer la reservación tiene que dar una tarjeta de crédito para cubrir los impuestos y tarifas. Lo recaudado es para beneficiar a los peregrinos de OLQP para su jubileo. Las personas que participan tienen que ser miembros inscritos de OLQP. **Los boletos de la rifa se aceptan de las 12:00am el lunes, 7 de abril hasta las 11:59pm el lunes, 28 de abril, 2025.** (No se va a aceptar ninguna papeleta ni antes ni después de estas fechas.) \$50 por papeleta y puede comprar múltiples papeletas. Para participar vaya a: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAFLYAWAY> o escanee el código QR:

Por favor use el botón designado en FaithDirect para pagar por las papeletas e indique “FLY AWAY” en la línea del asunto. (No se van a incluir papeletas si no se ha recibido el pago por las mismas.) Las personas ganadoras se van a anunciar en el boletín del 11 de mayo. ¡Buena suerte!

**TODAVÍA ESTAMOS ACEPTANDO FOTOS, ARTÍCULOS,
DOCUMENTOS HISTÓRICOS Y MEMORABILIA PARA EL
80 ANIVERSARIO DE OLQP.**

Si tiene algunos de estos artículos para compartir, lo apreciaríamos mucho. Por favor escanee estos artículos y envíenselos a Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgrantjenkins@olapva.org, o tráígalos. Los escanearemos y se los devolveremos.

PLATO DE ARROZ CRS – Este fin de semana marca el final oficial de la campaña del Plato de arroz. Nuestras más sinceras gracias a todas las personas que participaron. Esperamos que al peregrinar y orar durante la Cuaresma, en pequeña medida los retos que nuestras hermanas y hermanos por todo el mundo fueron más reales. Debido a su generosidad, los Servicios católicos de ayuda van a continuar ayudando a personas en 91 países. El 25% de lo que se recaude en nuestra diócesis se quedará aquí para financiar programas locales que alimentan a las personas con hambre. “Cuando tenía hambre me diste de comer” verdaderamente se vive en Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. Hay una cesta en el santuario a la derecha de la Pila bautismal. Pueden escribir cheques para donar, a nombre de OLQP y una nota indicando CRS Rice Bowl en la línea del asunto.

LLT STEMPower CAMP AT MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY!

This is an exciting opportunity for girls to dive into different fields, from science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). The best part? It's FREE, and we invite middle school students in the DMV area to apply! The LLT STEMPower Camp, formerly known as Latina Labs, is a dynamic, hands-on experience designed to engage and inspire young minds. With expert instructors and interactive activities, campers will explore STEM fields in a fun and supportive environment. **Registration is open!** Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity. Spaces are limited, so be sure to register early!

¡CAMPAMENTO LLT STEMPower EN LA UNIVERSIDAD MARYMOUNT!

Esta es una gran oportunidad para que niñas investiguen diferentes campos de la ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería o matemáticas (STEM). ¿Cuál es la mejor parte? ¡Es GRATIS e invitamos a estudiantes de escuela media en el área DMV a que soliciten! El Campamento LLT STEMPower, antes conocido como Latina Labs es una experiencia dinámica y directa diseñada para comprometer e inspirar mentes jóvenes. Las participantes, con instructores expertas y expertos y actividades interactivas, van a explorar campos de STEM en un ambiente divertido y de apoyo. **¡La inscripción ha comenzado!** No te pierdas esta gran oportunidad. ¡Hay espacio limitado, así que asegúrate de inscribirte temprano!

*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.*

MEDOR REFLECTION:

In today's gospel, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, **sending them forth to continue Christ's mission of compassion, peace, and renewal.** OLQP's longstanding twinning partnership with St. Joseph parish in Medor, Haiti, reflects this calling, as we actively bring Christ's message into the world through concrete acts of love and solidarity. Today's psalm reminds us to "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love is everlasting." With gratitude, we recognize the generous support of OLQP parishioners, whose contributions have empowered the **planting of nearly 1.5 million trees since 2010, significantly restoring the land.** Together, we support **education for 3,300 students, fostering hope and community growth.** **Let us continue Jesus's work with joyful, generous hearts.** Your support of the Haiti Easter Drive sustains and expands these transformative efforts. Donations may be made by check to OLQP (memo: "Haiti") or online here:



REGISTER WITH THE PARISH UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION LET US KNOW YOU'RE MOVING

If you have not officially registered with the parish, we invite you to do so. Updated, accurate information is very useful to us, especially in communicating important news like a weather-related closure. Visit the parish website (www.olqpva.org) click on About Us >> Register >> Register With Us.

If you have had an addition to your family, if you have had a change of address or if you would like to know what information we have on file for your family, please send a message to Jeannette Gantz Daly in the parish office: jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

CAN SOLUTIONS FILMS

Cinema Arts Theatre

Monday April 28th & beyond!

Free event Monday, April 28, at 7pm and monthly. Join us at Cinema Arts Theaters, 9650 Main St, Fairfax, for this evening screening is three short documentaries — one about coral, another about EV aviation pioneered by college students in PA and refabrication of clothing which has ended up in landfills here and overseas! Details [here](http://filmfreeway.com/ClimateSolutions). (filmfreeway.com/ClimateSolutions)

ECO-TIP from the Integrity of Creation Ministry: *Laudato si'* is Pope Francis's second encyclical, which addresses the environmental crisis and urges us to "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." This Earth month, read it for the first time or share it with a friend: usccb.org/offices/general-secretariat/laudato-si-care-our-common-home. May God bless Pope Francis, and may we carry on his legacy.

GREENING OUR MONEY

MAKING OUR BANKING, CREDIT CARD, AND INVESTMENTS
MORE EARTH FRIENDLY

JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL OLQP
EARTH DAY DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

5:30pm Vigil Mass

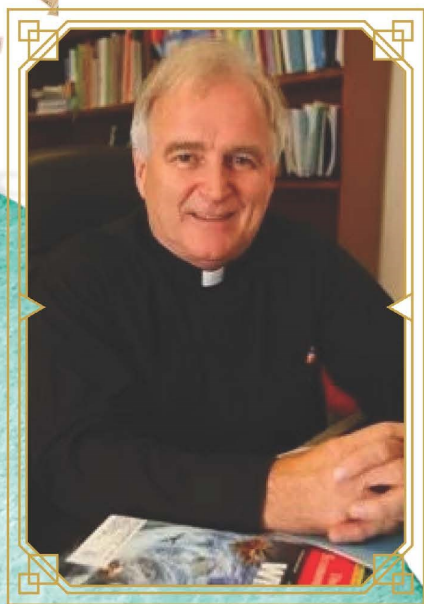
6:45pm Complimentary Dinner &
Speaker

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Fr. Seamus Finn, OMI, is a global leader in faith-based and socially responsible investing and a priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

He has engaged in conferences at the Vatican Bank, the World Bank, and other financial institutions.

Sponsored by the Integrity
of Creation Ministry



‘What Love Demands’

Pope Francis on concrete acts of mercy

[Isabella Simon](#)

In *Let Us Dream*, the slim 2020 volume from Pope Francis and Austen Ivereigh, the pope writes, “A concrete act of mercy is always an act of justice.” I have thought about that sentence often since first reading it. I think about it when people ask me why I’m Catholic, when I give cash to strangers on the train, when I consider the impossible scale of suffering in the world. Francis writes earlier in *Let Us Dream*, “[G]iving to the poor is just giving back to them what is theirs.” We often credit our successes to our worthiness and hard work, our failures to bad luck and circumstances outside our control. But for others, their success is luck, their failure deserved. Whatever we do for them, then, is merely an act of generosity toward someone who needs generosity only because of their own mistakes. Francis asks us to think otherwise.

He places his statement about mercy and justice as part of the second of three steps. The first step is recognizing and coming close to poverty. As Dorothy Day wrote, “We need always to be thinking and writing about poverty, for if we are not among its victims its reality fades from us.” This is a sharp contrast to the current political program of trying to push poverty out of view (by criminalizing homelessness or scapegoating and deporting refugees and economic migrants). Throughout his papacy, Francis roundly rejected that program of exclusion. He insisted that we see the poor, and then perform those concrete acts of mercy and justice for them.

But that’s not where Francis ends his instructions in the book. He urges us to “open ourselves to the necessary structural reforms” that would give the marginalized not merely a bite to eat but a seat at the table. But participating in these larger “necessary reforms”—voting for politicians and policies that benefit the poor, or using one’s platform (e.g., a small magazine) to advocate for them—does not exempt us from the

small, individual acts of mercy and justice. And we should never scorn such acts because they are small.

This thinking has also helped me wrestle with the slow-motion emergency of climate change. As for the poor, so for the earth. It has often been pointed out to me that the carbon emissions of my cross-country flights to visit family or scale cliffs “wipe out” the effect of my compost bin and reusable straw and secondhand clothing. I would, of course, contribute less to global warming if I did not fly. But the orientation of my daily life is not a carbon scale. I refuse the utilitarian logic that denies the value of small, consistent work, that rolls its eyes at the justice and mercy in every concrete act. Francis’s exhortation to participate in larger acts as well as small ones saves us from mere greenwashing or posturing: taking a reusable straw with me on a trip is, indeed, less effective at addressing climate change than electing leaders who will pass good legislation and staff the courts with judges who are not in denial about our climate emergency. I am not doing my best to care for our common home if I consider only individual consumption. But it is right to take the reusable straw with me anyway, even if doing so won’t save the planet. In using it, I have acted with justice toward the earth—and I have helped keep the earth in my mind and my heart.

It can be especially difficult to keep the marginalized in our minds and hearts—the productive feeling of refilling a soap dispenser with eco-friendly tablets is simple, and the interaction on a smelly train car with someone who wants not two dollars but twenty is complicated. But both cases are hounded by the question of what is “enough.” Everything I have could not be enough to meet someone else’s need, and, at the same time, I’m not even willing to give up a significant amount—not my coat, not my cross-country flights. There is so much guilt tied up in the question. I am ashamed to walk past the person sleeping on the

sidewalk and avert my gaze, to pretend I owe him nothing. Sometimes, my shame moves me to action. More often, it does not.

One of Pope Francis’s great gifts was his ability to write about these matters in a way that inspired not shame but hope. His writing is full of love and compassion, even as it plainly condemns the inequality and isolation in our society. When I read *Let Us Dream*, I did not feel like I was being rebuked for not having done all that I could. Instead, I felt like I was being told that my attempts to help others are both valuable and urgent—not only as gestures of goodwill, but as “what love demands.” Francis knew that, while we need to bear witness to suffering, we cannot be shamed into opening our hearts to the marginalized or protecting the earth. We are moved by the desire to do right by each other, and by the feeling that we actually *can*, not merely by the desire to avoid guilt and shame.

On Easter Sunday this year, while waiting for a train, I opened a box of leftover avocado toast. A woman pulling a blanket behind her came to sit next to me. She was clearly interested in my lunch (“What have you got there?”), so I gave her half. It was a slightly uncomfortable moment—it was difficult to understand her, because she didn’t have all her teeth—but it was also a nice one, because while we ate, we interacted as equals at the table. She told me that she loved guac, and we agreed there were too many pepitas on top of the toast. I asked her name. It was “Frances.”

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