

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

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:

January 3-4 5:30pm and 1pm in Spanish
3-4 enero 5:30pm 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)*

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 CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 4, 2026



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Mass Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 19, 11:00am

Misa para honrar al Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lunes, 19 de enero, 11:00am

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was."

Matthew 2:9



"la Estrella que habían visto en oriente los guío hasta que llegó y se detuvo encima de donde estaba el niño."

Mateo 2-9

Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz

04 de enero de 2026

Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor

A Consistent Ethic of Life Catholic Community

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 Collections / Colectas del domingo: \$5,814

ParishSoft Giving - weekly avg.: \$11,289

Word & Eucharist Missalette/

Misal Palabra y Eucaristía

Today's readings can be found on page 152

Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 153

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: Christiana Achebe, Suri Barahona, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Chris Bruns, Mary Callow, Brody Carroll, Antonio Fernandez Castillo, Louise Chambers, Fred Clarke, Carmen Rosa Claire, Chris Comer, Jeff Cory, Adele Crump, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Donna Davis, 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, Jo Marie Griesgraber, Melanie Guitreaux, Joe Harrington, Harris Family, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Pamela Hoefl, Jan Hyland, Patrick Hynes, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Gus Karns, Janie J. Key, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Alexa LaRue, Patrick Lawrey, John Lawyer, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Dick Melia, Eileen Melia, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Betty Mills, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrisey, Luis R. Muñoz, Zoe A. Muñoz, Chelsea Murray, Connie 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, Hazel Pulliam, Paul Ramirez, Santos Ramirez, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Ruffolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Jane Shepard, Donna Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Lora Smolenski, Suzie Snedgen Warner, Eva Souza, Grace Starbird, George Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Nancy Urquizo, Alma Reyes Valentin, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Jim Webster, Al Williams, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

Isaiah 60:1-6 (20A); Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Isaías 60,1-6 (20A); Efesios 3,2-3a, 5-6; Mateo 2,1-12

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIESTA DEL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR

Isiah 42:1-4, 6-7 (21A); Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

Isaías 42,1-4, 6-7 (21A); Hechos 10,34-38; Mateo 3,13-17

MASS INTENTIONS, JANUARY 3-9

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 3-9 ENERO

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

Saturday, January 3rd

5:30 pm Bob Wilson (Anniversary) (D) by Kate Wilson

Sunday, January 4th

8:00 am Kevin McDonald (D) by Minkisi Ministry

9:30 am Joe Litzelman (D) by Scott Litzelman

11:15 am Fe Jocson (L) by Judith Francia-Reyes & family

1:00 pm Indira Murillo (Anniversary) (D) by the Lovo family

6:00 pm Maureen Artz (L) by Mary & Kevin Artz

Monday, January 5th

12:00 pm Haydee Chumpitaz de Agurto (D) by Gladis Chumpitaz

Tuesday, January 6th

12:00 pm For The Parish

Wednesday, January 7th

12:00 pm Carmen González Nieto (D) by María Margarita Cabrera

Thursday, January 8th

12:00 pm Michael Ladner (D) by Ann Johnson

Friday, January 9th

12:00 pm John Nolan (Birthday) (D) by Betty & Jim Stevens

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

Faith Formation Assistant: **Carly Onopa**, conopa@olqpva.org

Office Manager (bilingüe): **Ligia Loza**, lloza@olqpva.org

Administrative Support:

Jeannette Gantz Daly, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

Mike Leahy, mleahy@olqpva.org

Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):

Mel Cabrera, mlvncabrera@gmail.com

Michael Hill, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

Zulema Ramallo and Henry Nguyen

JUST A THOUGHT... or two...

The word epiphany comes from the Greek, meaning: to “appear” or to be “revealed”. In some cultures the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is referred to as “Little Christmas” or “the Feast of the Three Kings,” and is the day of exchanging gifts with friends and loved ones.

Regardless of what we call it, it is a day on which we tell the story of the arrival of the magi, or the three kings, who have come from afar to see the newborn king and to offer gifts.

Epiphany is a time of celebrating the acknowledgement of “a new beginning,” a time to celebrate the Reign of God bursting forth in the midst of creation -- bursting forth even in the midst of the chaos and suffering of our times!

For sure we dwell for a while on the visit of the magi and the wonder of their journey, led by only a star that shown brightly in the deepest of the night sky. It is a time of wonder and awe...a time to allow ourselves to enter into the story and reflect on our own journey...our spiritual journey. For the magi the signs were in the heavens: a star that led them to Bethlehem, to a humble little stable where our God took on human flesh and came among us as one of us.

Perhaps the magi’s real wisdom was that they knew that they didn’t know everything. They valued learning, they looked for signs, and they paid attention to their dreams...they *expected* that God would talk to them!

They believed that they encountered God in their daily lives. Ultimately the story of the magi is a story of encounter, an encounter of the greatest kind...*an encounter with God!*

And so the Feast of the Epiphany is a time to ask ourselves, am I open to “following a star,” am I open to paying attention to the signs of God’s presence in my daily life?

Even in the midst of all the political and social chaos, how do I make time to listen for God’s words spoken to me in my life? Where and when do I most often encounter God in the ordinary routine of my daily life?

The magi came bearing gifts...what gift of self or of my life might I offer to God, and to my sisters and brothers, especially those most in need?

I pray you all a most happy, healthy and blessed New Year. One filled with *sacred encounters!*

Christmas blessings,

Fr. Tim

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

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

[www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/Parish Office Staff and Weekday Activities](http://www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/Parish_Office_Staff_and_Weekday_Activities), 8:30am-4:30pm: Office and weekday activities follow the decision of the Federal Government. Tune in to your local radio and tv stations for updated information or visit:

www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/

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

To the extent it’s possible, notice will be placed on the parish website and recorded on the phone message. Please use your best judgement when traveling outside the immediate area.

NORMAS ANTE LA INCLEMENCIA DEL CLIMA

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

Personal de la Oficina Parroquial: las actividades de la Oficina y del día siguen la decisión del Gobierno Federal. Sintonice las emisoras de radio y televisión locales para obtener información actualizada.

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

En la medida de lo posible, el aviso será colocado en el sitio web de la parroquia y en el mensaje telefónico.

THE GIVING TREE – Support SEEC Day Laborers! We invite you to support the parish in providing lunch for SEEC day laborers. Each week a group of volunteers shop, prepare and package lunches for Shirlington Day Laborers through the Brown Bag Lunch Program. The Giving Tree in the sanctuary during Christmas time supports this effort: take a ‘brown bag angel’ ornament from the basket under the giving tree in the sanctuary, place your donation inside the ornament and hang it on the tree. The tree will be in the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

- **MISSED THE INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE WYD 2027** Pilgrimage to Saigon, Vietnam and Seoul, Korea but are still interested? There will be a zoom information session, Tuesday, January 6th. Please contact Rebecca Grant Jenkins: rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org.

JOIN FR. PONTIEN ON A CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE Fatima, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Madrid

Fr. Pontien will lead a nine-day Marian Shrines pilgrimage to Portugal, France and Spain. The guided tour will be in English. Cost is \$3,900 for double occupancy and includes flight, hotel, motorcoach travel, breakfast and dinner. Those interested in single occupancy are encouraged to register now to guarantee space. (Cost does not include lunch, beverages at dinner, optional travel insurance or tips.)

Use this link for *online registration*:

<https://www.unitours.com/OnlineBooking.aspx?url=UAB1110DO>

Use this link for pilgrimage details and to submit *paper registration* directly to Fr. Pontien:

<https://bit.ly/KenfackMarianShrines>

Brochures in both English and Spanish are available at the back of church this weekend.

THE GIVING TREE -- ¡Apoye a los jornaleros de SEEC! Los invitamos a apoyar a la parroquia al darle almuerzo a los jornaleros de SEEC. Cada semana un grupo de personas voluntarias que forman parte del Brown Bag Lunch van de compras, preparan y empacan almuerzos para los jornaleros de Shirlington. El Giving Tree en el santuario durante la temporada de Navidad apoya este esfuerzo. Tome un ornamento, “un ángel de papel”, de la canasta que está debajo del “giving tree” en el santuario, ponga su donación dentro del ornamento y cuélguelo en el árbol. El árbol va a estar en el santuario durante la temporada navideña.

MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES:

- **¿TE PERDISTE LA SESIÓN INFORMATIVA PARA LA PEREGRINACIÓN WYD 2027 A SAIGÓN, VIETNAM Y SEÚL, COREA**, pero todavía estás interesada/o? Vamos a tener una reunión informativa por Zoom el martes, 6 de enero. Por favor contacta a Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org.

ÚNASE AL PADRE PONTIEN PARA UNA PEREGRINACIÓN CATÓLICA

Fátima, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Madrid

Del 10 al 18 de noviembre 2026 el Padre Pontien va a ser el guía de una peregrinación mariana de nueve días a Portugal, Francia y España. La excursión guiada va a ser en inglés. El costo es de \$3,900 por habitación doble e incluye el vuelo, hotel, viajes por autocar, desayuno y cena. Las personas interesadas en una habitación sencilla deben inscribirse ahora para garantizar la disponibilidad. (El costo no incluye el almuerzo, bebidas en la cena, viajes opcionales o propinas.)

Use este enlace para inscribirse **en línea**:

<https://www.unitours.com/OnlineBooking.aspx?url=UAB1110DO>

Use este enlace para obtener detalles de la peregrinación y para someter los **papeles para la inscripción** directamente al Padre Pontien: <https://bit.ly/KenfackMarianShrines>

Hay folletos disponibles en inglés y español en la parte de atrás de la iglesia este fin de semana.



BEWARE OF EMAILS AND TEXT MESSAGES that appear to come from Fr. Tim and other staff members. The messages typically sound urgent and ask for a call back or immediate response. This is not the way we will communicate with you – the messages are likely to be scams. Please delete them. Always double check the sender email address to make sure it’s actually a staff member.

CUIDADO CON LOS CORREOS ELECTRÓNICOS Y TEXTOS que parecen venir del Padre Tim y otras personas del personal. Los mensajes tienden a ser urgentes y piden que se les llame o que se responda inmediatamente. Esta no es la manera como nos comunicamos con usted – los mensajes probablemente son fraudes. Por favor elimínelos. Siempre revise la dirección del correo electrónico de la persona que lo mandó para asegurarse que es de alguien que trabaja en OLQP.

*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.*

ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK DISCUSSION W/THE AUTHOR

Have you ever wondered what you can do to help solve the climate crisis? Join the Integrity of Creation ministry and author Lawrence MacDonald for a discussion of his book "Am I too old to save the planet? A boomer's guide to climate action" in the Parish library on February 11 at 7:00PM. All are welcome! For more information and a chance to win a free autographed copy of the book, email Dan Herrera (herrerawildlife@gmail.com).

MATTHEW 25 IS IN NEED OF COATS

Please review your coat closet — Matt 25 is in need of car length coats or jackets. We are now open to accepting donations at the Ministry Center: Saturdays—Tuesdays, 9-12noon; Wednesdays, 9-7pm; Closed Thursdays and Fridays. Please consider donating a coat.

PARISHSOFT GIVING—OLQP's E-giving Platform

If you were an active Faith Direct user, your record was upgraded to ParishSOFT Giving. If you are accessing your account for the first time since the upgrade (9/23), you will need a password reset — please contact Christina in the parish office to request that: ckozyrn@olqpva.org. ParishSOFT Giving uses the same email address for your user name as you used with Faith Direct. You just need a new password.

Login [here](#) to view your scheduled gifts, payment information, and to view the last four weeks of your contribution history. Use the same link to add, delete and edit your scheduled gifts — once logged into your ParishSOFT Giving account, click on "scheduled" and "history" to access this information.

New online donors, please click [here](#) to setup a one-time gift or recurring gift by completing the Give Now form. Use the dropdown arrow to select the fund you would like to contribute to: Sunday Collection, Pastor's Outreach, Food Pantry, etc.

Need help? Please contact OLQP's Business Manager, Christina ckozyrn@olqpva.org or contact ParishSOFT Giving donor support at 866-930-4774 option 6 or donorsupport@parishsoft.com.

Thank you for your support and generosity. It's vital to the good work of OLQP and very much appreciated!

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/FD-271>

Eco-Tip from OLQP's Integrity of Creation Team

A New Year's Resolution for Sustainable Living: Ask yourself, how have I served, protected or enhanced my community and my environment? Put into practice the "8 Rs" of sustainable living: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Rot (compost), Recycle.

More YOUTH MINISTRY News...

- **TEEN NITE** will resume this Sunday, January 4th, after the 6:00pm Mass.
- **CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP** is scheduled for July 19 - 24, 2026, for rising 8th - 12th graders. There will be an information meeting, Sunday, January 25th, at 5:00pm in Casa Guadalupe. Applications are now open: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVACHWC2026>. Adult Volunteers - Get Involved with Work Camp! This week-long service program relies on parishes making a community effort. Join us!

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: jgantz Daly@olqpva.org

FOOD PANTRY -- Next Sunday is the second Sunday of the month — food collection weekend. Please help support the Food Pantry with donated food for the pantry. We offer the following items if you would like to buy some or all from our grocery list: box of low sugar cereal, 1 lb - Pasta, 24 oz. can or jar - Pasta Sauce, 1 box - Mac and Cheese, 24 oz. bottle - Oil, 5lbs — Corn Flour (not corn meal), 1 lb - Rice, 1lb - Dried Beans (or 2 cans - Canned Beans), 1 15 oz. can - Corn and 1 15 oz can - Green Vegetable. If you find that you cannot bring food items, please consider donating to the food pantry (<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-271?tab=home> and click on "outreach programs") or place check in the collection basket with "food pantry" on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Neither rain, nor snow, nor heat nor cold are barriers to our *Discipleship in Christ*. Our witness for peace and our commitment to safety from violence inspire our persistence to stand for **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**. For more than a decade, on the 14th of every month **Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence** witness to that commitment in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. If your discipleship moves you to act, join other concerned NoVA residents for 1 hour on Wednesday, January 14 at 10:00 am at the NRA.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR PARISH FAMILY!

2026 Josephite Calendars are available at the back of church while supplies last.

Please take one for you family's use at home.

NEW! Prayer Ministry at OLQP

THE ROSARY: Meditations on the Mysteries of Christ

Join us Wednesdays in the church at 12:45pm for a weekly rotation of the meditations on the mysteries of Christ: The Joyful Mysteries, The Luminous Mysteries, The Sorrowful Mysteries, The Glorious Mysteries. Come weekly or when convenient. As our guide, we will be using: The Rosary with Bishop Robert Barron.

2026 Pro-Life Activities

Renew your commitment to pray and advocate for the protection of all human life. Learn more about what local, state, and national pro-life events are taking place next month and how you can get involved!

[Pro-Life Activities - Catholic Diocese of Arlington](#)

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FOR THOSE SEXUALLY ABUSED AS MINORS

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington provides comprehensive assistance to anyone who as a minor was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, teacher, employee or representative of the diocese. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, who will provide support, consultation, and referrals. The Catholic Diocese of Arlington is committed to assisting victims/survivors throughout the healing process. For further information, see www.arlingtondiocese.org/victim-assistance/ or call (703) 841-2530.

Our Christmas Message to the People of Medor...

Father Frantz read the following message from us after the Christmas Eve and Christmas Masses:

Christmas Greetings to everyone in St. Joseph parish from your twin parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace in Arlington, Virginia

On this holy day, we remember the words of the Gospel: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Today that light shines among us once again as Jesus, our Emmanuel, is born into the world, bringing joy for the weary, hope for the searching, and peace for every heart.

May the celebration of Christ's birth fill St. Joseph parish with renewed strength, deep faith, and the comforting assurance of God's unfailing love. Jesus came to dwell with us. And Jesus has drawn our two parishes - St. Joseph of Medor and Our Lady Queen of Peace - into a bond of friendship, solidarity, and shared mission.

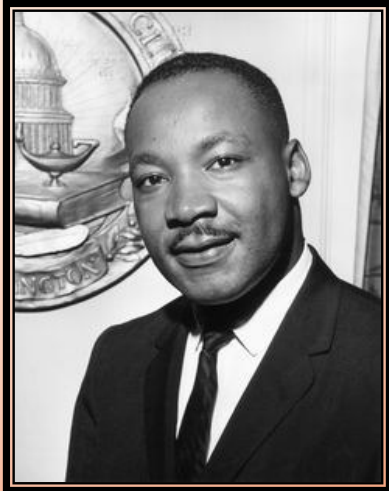
We give thanks for this relationship, which continues to grow through our work together in education, agroforestry, clean water, sanitation, and, above all, love. We pray that Christ's light will continue to guide our steps as we accompany one another, support one another, and deepen our unity as brothers and sisters in faith.

As we rejoice in the miracle of the Savior's birth, may God's blessings rest upon every family in both of our parishes. May He fill our homes with peace, our hearts with compassion, and our communities with hope for the year to come.

Amen, and Merry Christmas!

With love,

The parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Arlington, Virginia



*Please Join Our Congregation for a
Mass Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Monday, January 19, 2026

OLQP at 11:00 AM

Commemorating the Life and Legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp, Presider

9:30 Gospel Choir

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 18, 2026 — 9:30am Mass — OLQP

Bishop Michael Burbidge, Presider

Reception immediately following Mass, in Fr. Ray Hall.

Reflection on the World Day of Peace message by Marie Dennis

Pax Christi USA's 2022 Teacher of Peace Marie Dennis, who is the director of Pax Christi International's Catholic Institute for Nonviolence, [was interviewed by Vatican News](#) about her reflections on Pope Leo XIV's first World Day of Peace message. In highlighting a vision of peace that is unarmed, disarming, humble, and persevering in a world marked by fear and conflict, Marie offers, Pope Leo is pointing to Gospel nonviolence as a concrete, hopeful path already being lived in communities across the globe. The interview is found [here](#) on Vatican News' website.

By Linda Bordoni

[Vatican News](#)

As the Church prepares to mark the World Day of Peace on 1 January, Pope Leo XIV's first **Message** for the occasion is centered on the call for an "unarmed and disarming" peace. As **Marie Dennis** recalls, it also refers to a peace that is "humble and persevering," and it places Gospel nonviolence at the heart of the Church's response to a world increasingly marked by conflict, fear, and fragmen-

tation.

Speaking with Vatican News, the director of Pax Christi International's **Catholic Institute for Nonviolence** describes the pope's message as deeply coherent with the direction Pope Leo XIV has charted since the earliest moments of his papacy. "It is so entirely consistent with what Pope Leo has been saying from the very beginning," she says. "His immediate reference to peace – peace that is unarmed and disarming, and, he adds,

humble and persevering."

For Dennis, the message offers not only a spiritual reflection, but a strong and concrete framework rooted in what she calls "Gospel nonviolence"—a way of life that the world urgently needs.

An "unarmed and disarming" peace

Asked about the pope's use of the words "unarmed" and "disarming" when referring to peace, Dennis explains that it carries both theological depth and practical implications. An "unarmed" peace,



she says, does not depend on coercion, military force, or the accumulation of weapons.

"The peace of Christ does not rely on violence or coercion or a building up of arms," she notes, pointing to Pope Leo's explicit reference to the enormous global investment in war and preparations for war. "It does not rely on that kind of preparation—or on violence itself."

But the pope goes further, she adds, by insisting that peace must also be "disarming."

"This is not passive," Dennis explains. "It is an active process whereby a different way of relating is built between two parties."

Drawing on the language of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, she describes this as a practice that both interrupts cycles of violence and extends a hand, even to those perceived as enemies.

"It consistently reaches out to the so-called enemy, to the one who may even be the perpetrator of violence, to build a new way of relating," she says. "Peace is unarmed in itself, and it is also disarming."

A radically different response to a violent world

The timing of the message could not be more stark. As global conflicts multiply and geopolitical tensions intensify, the sense of fear and instability has become pervasive. Dennis acknowledges the gravity of the moment, describing today's world as "breathtakingly violent and frightening."

Yet she believes Pope Leo XIV is deliberately offering a radically different response.

"Rather than giving in to or orchestrating fear, which is really the way the world is working right now, the pope calls us to move beyond fear," she says. Instead, the message urges a return to humility, relationship-building, and recognition of the dignity of the other.

This vision, she notes, stands in sharp contrast to dominant narratives that portray entire groups of people as threats. Pope Leo's insistence on humility, she explains, recognises the integrity of every person. "Where we are told that immigrants are a threat, not a gift," she says, "the pope speaks of a peace that recognises people as human beings with needs, integrity, and gifts to bring to society."

The pope's call to a "persevering" peace

also resonates deeply with Dennis. Such peace, she says, cannot be rushed.

"It takes time – listening, truth-telling, and relentless persistence – in order to build right relationships," she explains, both at the interpersonal level and on the international stage.

In this context, she highlights the pope's emphasis on strengthening, rather than dismantling, transnational institutions capable of fostering dialogue and cooperation between nations.

"What Pope Leo offers," Dennis says, "is an extraordinary and beautiful, very different platform on which humanity could live out the reality of these days."

"Houses of peace" and concrete hope

One of the most practical images in the Pope's message, according to Dennis, is his call for communities to become "houses of peace."

"He speaks of every community becoming a house of peace," she explains, "where hostility is diffused through dialogue, where justice is practised, and where forgiveness is cherished."

For Dennis, this is not an abstract ideal, but a concrete ecclesial mission—one that spans parish life, universities, religious communities, and even the Church's diplomatic engagement.

"These houses of peace are places where people learn how to listen with respect, to seek common ground, and to work together on the problems at the heart of violence," she says.

Acknowledging how difficult such a vision may seem in the face of brutal conflicts – from Sudan to Ukraine – Dennis insists that it is already being lived out, often quietly and without recognition.

"There are many people around the world contributing to what Pope Leo calls the most silent of revolutions," she says.

She points to the [Tent of Nations](#), a family farm near Bethlehem, whose commitment to hope is expressed in daily, disciplined acts of faithfulness and care for the land. For Dennis, such a witness is the perfect exemplification of what the pope is calling for: perseverance rooted in hope, even when circumstances are incredibly difficult.

At the same time, she stresses that even in places marked by extreme violence, there are communities striving to protect children, care for women, and maintain

human dignity.

"These stories of nonviolence practised day by day are so often not told," she says. "And it is important to lift them up, so that we know it is possible to build houses of peace everywhere."

Nonviolence: not naïve, but effective

As a long-time advocate of nonviolence, Dennis says one passage of the pope's message resonates particularly strongly with her: his reflection on the disciples' discomfort with Jesus' nonviolent response to injustice and threat.

"What troubled the disciples was his non-violent response," Pope Leo writes, a path that Peter, among others, contested.

"That reaction is very familiar," Dennis observes. "We tend to think that nonviolence in the face of such overwhelming violence is naïve or impossible."

Yet, she notes, growing empirical research shows otherwise.

"What we are learning is that nonviolent strategies work," she says, "and they often work better than armed responses."

Nonviolence, she insists, is neither passive nor impractical. It is a disciplined approach that can be learned and applied, even in the most difficult circumstances.

The "houses of peace" Pope Leo envisions, she adds, can help communities grow in nonviolence both as a spiritual path and as an effective response to the many forms of violence present in today's world.

A claim on hope

Concluding, Dennis expresses gratitude for the pope's message.

"It is a strong articulation of another way," she says. "The world needs it so badly right now."

Pope Leo XIV's World Day of Peace message, she explains, is ultimately a claim on hope, not a denial of suffering or conflict, but a courageous insistence that peace, grounded in Gospel nonviolence, remains possible.

"And that," she concludes, "is very, very important."

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