

# Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

[www.ourchurch.com/member/o/olvparish](http://www.ourchurch.com/member/o/olvparish)

**Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KHS Pastor**

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. Brian Muzás

*Weekend Assistants*

**Br. Innocent CFR**

Charles Niece

*Parish Seminararians*

**Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin**

*Deacons*

**Susan Evanela Betty Ann Niece**

*Religious Education*

**Selena Piazza**

**Lesia Rossmann**

*Ministers of Music*

**Curtiss & Katie Stella**

*High School Ministry*

**Jorden Pedersen Esq.**

*President Parish Council*

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. John O'Connor

*Latin Mass Assistants*

**Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC**

**Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC**

*In Residence-Convent*

**Deacon Al McLaughlin**

*Parish Catechetical Leader*

**Elizabeth Ulisse**

**Martin Coyne II**

*Parish Trustees*

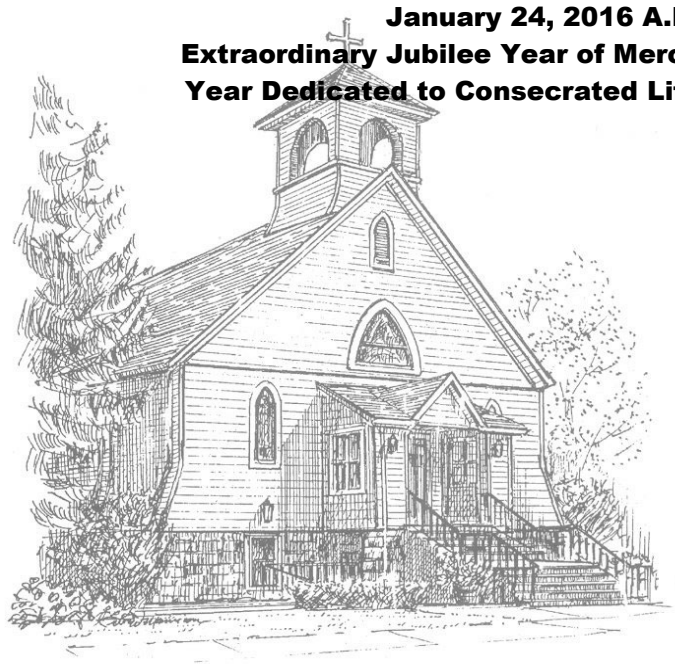
**Maria Hellrigel**

*Parish Secretary*

**Jon Fischer CFA**

*Chairman Finance Committee*

**January 24, 2016 A.D.  
Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy  
Year Dedicated to Consecrated Life**



## WELCOME

**To the Parish Family of  
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES  
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)**

## COME WORSHIP WITH US

### Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 4:00pm & 5:00pm**

**Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 10:45am,  
12:00pm, 6:00pm & 7:00pm**

**Latin Mass: Every Sunday at 8:15am**

**Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00am & 12:00noon**

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

All are welcome to become members of OLV Parish because we're the **little Church with the BIG HEART**. Please register in the Rectory. Every Catholic family or individuals living within the parish boundaries are encouraged to register.

### SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

**First Friday:** 7:30pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

**First Saturday:** 8:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

**First Saturday:** 12:00pm Mass for Souls in Purgatory

**Sundays:** at 3PM Group Rosary

### Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

**Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal:** Monday

**St. Jude and St. Anthony:** Wednesday

**Infant of Prague:** 25th of the month

**Rosary:** Recited M - Sat after 8:00am & 12Noon Mass.

**Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration:** 2:00-3:00pm

**Thursday-Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction:** 7:00pm

**Friday-Exposition & Adoration:** 12:30PM-3:00pm

**Nocturnal Adoration:** First Friday evening 8pm to Saturday 8am

### THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am. First Friday at 7:00pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:25pm

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

### THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.

**Phone:** OLV Rectory 201-768-1706  
**Email:** olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

**OLV Fax**  
201-768-3962

**Religious Education**  
201-768-1400  
olvhpccd@gmail.com

**OLV Convent**  
201-768-1705

## **PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **OLV PARISH** may be restored to health and all those who **ASSIST** and **CARE** for the sick will be given the **STRENGTH** to continue **GOD'S GOOD WILL**: Baby Luca, little Niamh Devlin, Br. Pius, Isabella Ruggiero, Maria Aleman, Nicholas Biancola Jr, Kathleen Dolan, Mario Gobbetti, Thomas Haring, Peter Kelleher, Arnold Kemner, Ken Mosier, Kathleen Musante, Dan Ragusa, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie & George Rush, Cynthia Simonelli, Mildred Speck, Therese Vaglio, Darien Wesler, Al Wiese, Roy Wurtz, Marian Zanetti, Elaine Zito.

## **SPIRITUAL EXCERPT**

"Bl. Luigi Novarese often spoke to those who suffer, telling them how much this world needed people who would take upon themselves, like Jesus, expiation, reparation, and penance. In fact, "you are the candidates, the chosen ones for this redemptive mission." Your life in suffering is not useless but very important and necessary. You can and must become a benefactor of mankind. Have courage! Abandon yourselves to Mary Most Holy, who with her "yes" put into motion the fulfillment of the plan of salvation for mankind. If you do this, you will become an instrument of a new life, a builder of a new world. "

*+Fr. Remigio, sodc*

## **Apostolate of the Suffering**

Mary is the perfect model of every Christian virtue. When we contemplate upon Her response of love to the Lord, we learn how to be His disciple. She not only teaches us how to live by faith, hope and love but, through the power of the Holy Spirit, shares Her love of God with us. The Immaculate Heart of Mary shines before the eyes of all Christians as the model of perfect love toward God and our fellow human beings.

## **OLV K of C Council #14483**

All men over the age of 18 are cordially invited to join the OLV Knights of Columbus Council. The Knights are the largest Catholic Fraternal Organization in the world. For info call Rich at 201-767-6689.

## **CONVALIDATION**

Were you married civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? See Fr Bryan for more details and to see if your marriage can be regularized with the Church.

## **WILL**

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart 'Wal-Mart?' the preacher exclaimed. 'Why Wal-Mart?' 'Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week'.

## **DID YOU KNOW???**

**S.M.O.M.** The actual smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S.M.O.M). It is located in the city of Rome, Italy, and has an area of two tennis courts. And, as of 2001, has a population of 80 -- 20 less people than the Vatican. It is a sovereign entity under international law, just as the Vatican City State is.

## **3:00PM ROSARY**

On Sundays at 3:00PM parishioners have organized and will be reciting the rosary. All are welcome.

## **SAVE USED EYEGLASSES**

The OLV Knights of Columbus collects used and old eyeglasses for the less fortunate. Any old or "retired" glasses may be left at the rectory.

## **THE ORTHODOX CRUCIFIX**

As a Catholic, I often wondered about the design of the Orthodox Cross. In most Christian traditions, the symbol of the Cross is fashioned from an upright and one crosspiece. However, in the Russian Orthodox tradition, it is shaped somewhat differently. In addition to the usual upright and one crosspiece, there are two smaller crosspieces. One is positioned slightly above the central one and the other down toward the foot of the upright. The small one above represents the sign hung over the crucified Lord's head, bearing the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The Apostle John tells us that these words appeared in three languages — Latin, Hebrew and Greek, — so that everyone would be sure to get the message: Here hangs the king — some king! The little crosspiece below depicts the wooden block placed under Jesus' feet for support, in order to prevent Him from dying too quickly. This crosspiece is set on the upright at a slant to indicate how Jesus must have pushed down hard with one foot when the pain became most severe.

## **A PRIEST**

There is an old saying that affirms: without the priest there is no Eucharist, and without the Eucharist there is no priest. What is a priest? A man who holds the place of God — a man who is invested with all the powers of God... When the priest remits sins, he does not say, "God pardons you," he says, "I absolve you." If we had not the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we should not have Our Lord. Who placed him there in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest — always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest. Go to confession to the Blessed Virgin, or to an angel; will they absolve you? No. Will they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord? No. The Holy Virgin cannot make her Divine Son descend into the Host. You might have two hundred angels there, but they could not absolve you. A priest, however simple he may be, can do it; he can say to you, "Go in peace; I pardon you." — based upon an Our Sunday Visitor pamphlet.

## **OLV SCHOOL**

### **ALUMNI /GRADUATES**

On the wall inside of the school are all the graduating classes from OLV School, but in 4 cases we only have the list of children and no class picture. We are missing the class pictures from the 8th grade graduating class of **1966, 1968, 1972, and 1975**. If you have a picture, please contact the rectory. We will only need it to scan and will return your picture ASAP.

## **WILLING PEOPLE**

The church is full of willing people - 20% willing to work, and 80% willing to let them.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Long Island, New York, was originally called Isla de los Apostolos – Isle of the Apostles - by the Spanish who discovered it in 1525.

## **THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

Am I doing my share to financially support MY parish?  
In this day and age is MY parish offering a realistic one?

**Upcoming OLV Parish Events**

- Jan 24/25—Sun/Mon – CCD
- Jan 26 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:15-3:15PM
- Jan 27—Wed—Bible Study 10:00AM
- Jan 27—Wed—OLV Needlers
- Jan 29—Fri– Adoration from 12:30PM-4:00PM
- Jan 30– Sat—First Confessions
- Jan 30 - Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00noon 3:00-3:25PM
- May 14—Sat- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
- May 22—Sun—Confirmation 2PM
- May 30—Mon—Fr. Innocent CFR First Mass & Reception at OLV-1PM

**TRAVELING STATUE**

OLV has a traveling statue of the Blessed Mother that can go from home to home so that prayers and rosaries can be said for the good of the people of the parish and the individual family. The statue will "visit" for a week before it will be sent to the next home. Contact the rectory for information or to have your name placed on the list to receive the statue.

**Birth Parents Must Take Action to Preserve Their Privacy**

For well over a century, the Catholic Church in New Jersey has provided adoption services. Throughout all those years, the Church promised to honor the privacy of birth parents and adoptees. That promise of privacy also was assured by law and affirmed by the State Superior Court. Those promises can no longer be kept. On May 27, 2014, a new law took effect that will allow adoptees and certain relatives to request and obtain the names of their biological parents beginning **January 1, 2017**. Any birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a **Redaction Request Form** to the New Jersey Department of Health no later than **December 31, 2016**. By filing this form, birth parents will be able to keep their names off any documents provided by the State to adoptees or anyone else. The State made the **Redaction Request Form** public on August 3, 2015. The form can be downloaded at <http://nj.gov/health/forms/reg-36c.pdf>. If you know a person who placed a child in adoption, please tell them that if they do not file a **Redaction Request Form**, their name and other information could be given to the adoptee. Anyone needing assistance can call a HELPLINE AT **609-989-4809**.

**PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY**

- Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
- Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
- Midshipman Jon Clemente, US Navy;
- Sergeant Nicholas Colletti, US Army;
- 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
- Captain Michael Franson, US Army;
- Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
- Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
- Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
- Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
- Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
- Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
- Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
- Corporal Richard McKenna, USMC.

**Are YOU new to the AREA?**

If you are, stop by the rectory and meet Maria, our parish secretary, and register to become a member of the OLV Family.

**DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH?**

In 2,000 years of Christianity, only 36 saints have been honored as a "Doctor of the Church." Among them are St. Augustine, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Therese of Lisieux. Right now the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception are leading a drive to petition the Holy See to increase that number by one more, adding St. Faustina Kowalska, the Apostle of Divine Mercy, as number 37.

The Marians are working earnestly on this drive, urging everyone to support naming St. Faustina a Doctor by signing the petition on their website and praying for its success. The results will be sent to the Holy See. This Year of Mercy beginning December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, would be the perfect time for St. Faustina, who belonged to the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, to be named the newest Doctor of the Church.

Father Michalenko was vice-postulator for North America for the Canonization Cause of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, the "Secretary" and "Apostle" of Jesus, The Divine Mercy. He is one of the world's leading authorities on Divine Mercy and St. Faustina.

Over several years Father Alar has been mentored by the world's leading Divine Mercy experts. He also serves as "Fr. Joseph," the director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

**Transfiguration Academy Open House**

**Sunday, Jan. 31, 9AM-1PM**, Pre-K3—8th Grade. Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), Future City Competition, Fine & Performing Arts, Foreign Language, Sports & Extra-Curricular Programs, Before & After School Care. Discover why our students excel both in and outside of the classroom. Location: 19 N. William St., Bergenfield. [www.transfigurationacademy.org](http://www.transfigurationacademy.org) Tel: 201-384-3627.

**2016 Wedding Anniversary Masses**

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage in 2016. Couples deserving of such recognition are urged to participate. These liturgies will be celebrated at 3:00p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

- Sunday, April 24, 2016— 5 & 25 years;
- Sunday, May 1, 2016—50 years.

Please call the OLV Rectory to register at 201-768-1706.

**Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrim Churches**

Six Archdiocesan parishes and shrines have been designated as "Pilgrim Churches"; each of these Pilgrim Churches will enable the faithful to gain a Plenary Indulgence. The Pilgrim Churches are: St. Francis Xavier-Newark, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus-Linden, Divine Mercy-Rahway, Our Lady of Mercy-Park Ridge, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus-Wallington, Our Lady of Mercy-Jersey City.

**CCD Corner**

Yesterday morning our Second Graders attended their First Reconciliation Retreat. No one likes to admit their sinfulness, but these children came to see the beautiful gift of Reconciliation as one more way of God expressing His endless love and mercy for them and all of us. They were introduced to the power and graces that accompany this sacrament. Although "little angels" and God's gift to us, they understand that we all need our heavenly Father's forgiveness and we must do our best in being examples of His mercy in our homes, schools, communities and places of work. Please keep these children in your prayers as they will receive the sacrament for the first time next Saturday.

### Catholic Men's Conference Saturday, March 5, 2016

**B**e Not Afraid... Trust in His Mercy – A Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. The day begins at 8:00AM and ends around 1:30PM. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop John J. Myers. A dynamic line-up of speakers is scheduled for this day! Ticket price is \$20 for adults, \$15 for students who provide a Student ID Card. For registration please visit our website at [www.rcanmenscommission.org](http://www.rcanmenscommission.org). Tel. 973-497-4545.

### Women's Commission Day of Reflection Saturday, February 27, 2016

Alive in Christ: Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. The day begins at 9:00AM and ends at 1:30PM. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop John J. Myers. Registration is \$20. Continental breakfast included. To register, or for more information, visit [www.rcan.org/womcom](http://www.rcan.org/womcom). Tel. 973-497-4545.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Super Bowl is nothing compared to the Super Marriage relationship you can have after learning the tools for communication on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. **Military families**, are you getting ready to deploy? Is your family trying to reconnect after deployment? Marriage Encounter offers tools of communication that have kept many military marriages strong and happy throughout the ups and downs of military service. Contact your local chaplain or call Mike and Janet Turco at 973-427-7016 or 609-335-6880 or email [njwwme@peoplepc.com](mailto:njwwme@peoplepc.com).

### MAKE A GIFT THROUGH—IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through 2015 and was passed permanently into law. This law will allow individuals 70½ or older to move up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to qualified charities such as Our Lady of Victories parish, the Archdiocese of Newark, or another archdiocesan entity without having to pay income taxes on the donated money. For more information about how you can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, please contact the Planned Giving Office at the Archdiocese of Newark. You can reach Theresa Lynch at (973) 497-4042 or by email at [lynchthe@rcan.org](mailto:lynchthe@rcan.org).

### Stephanie Cywinski-O'Brien Scholarship - 2016

Student scholarships are being offered through the Stephanie Cywinski-O'Brien Trust. Applications are now being accepted from parish 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attending a Catholic grammar school, as well as Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors attending a Catholic high school and continuing their education at a Catholic school. Applications and eligibility requirements are available at the OLV rectory. Applications are due April 10 with decisions to be made by April 30.

### CLOTHING BINS

As the new year is upon us and the turbulence of your many demands, would you be willing to take a few minutes to gather your unwanted clothing and shoes to help Catholic Charities? Please drop them in the Catholic Charities donation bin located on the Church grounds. Your donations help Catholic Charities and Mt. Carmel Guild. Thank you.

### Mass Intentions

**Monday, January 25—Conversion of St. Paul, apostle**  
 8:00 George Gill R/b Winnie Gill  
 12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias  
 7:00(Convent) Ann Moriarty R/b Pat and Sergio Pastore

**Tuesday, January 26—Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops**  
 8:00 Sr. Theresa Catherine Carberry CSJP R/b Guy &Patti Ann Schweizer  
 12:00 Catherine T. Beirne R/b Richard and Mary C. O'Brien

**Wednesday, January 27— St. Angela Merici, Virgin**  
 8:00 Pasqualina Pezzello R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara  
 12:00 Felecia Scala R/b Ron and Adele Filippone

**Thursday, Jan. 28—St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church**  
 8:00 Vincent O'Brien R/b Mary Spillane  
 12:00 Joseph Rinaldi—2nd Anniversary R/b Rae Rinaldi

**Friday, January 29 – St. Gildas the Wise of England, Abbot**  
 8:00 John G. Marchetti  
 12:00 Intentions of Karl Henry Senicar R/b Monika Senicar

**Saturday, January 30—St. Bathildis of England, Queen, Widow, Nun**  
 8:00 Geraldine V. Andreano—1st Anniversary  
 12:00 Thomas P. Kelly R/b Rose Nicoletti  
 4:00 Angela Commerford R/b the Williams Family  
 5:00 Anne Brunnuell R/b Bob and Rosemarie Murphy

**Sunday, January 31— Saint John Bosco, Priest**  
 7:30 Fred Bolton R/b the Bolton Family  
 8:15 Souls in Purgatory  
 9:30 Anita Louise Rapp R/b the Grassi Family  
 10:45 Ottomanelli Family R/b Nicholas Ottomanelli  
 12:00 Joan M. Fryling R/b the Hazelton Family  
 6:00 Nicholas Van Calcar R/b the Youngmans Family  
 7:00 Joseph Rinaldi R/b Rae Rinaldi

### Sanctuary Memorials

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the souls of **John and Carmella Russo and deceased of the Russo Family**, r/b John and Linda Russo.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of **William Corcoran**, r/b Dominick and Marian Baldano.

**The Hosts and Wine** used at Mass this week have been donated in memory of **Joseph Cecco**, r/b Luanne Napolitano and Joannette Femia.

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** burns this week for the souls in Purgatory.

### Sanctuary Offerings

The Altar Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM Votive Lamp, and St. Joseph Votive Lamp, the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

**The fruit of SILENCE is PRAYER.  
 The fruit of PRAYER is FAITH.  
 The fruit of FAITH is LOVE.  
 The fruit of LOVE is SERVICE.  
 The fruit of SERVICE is PEACE.  
 Mother Teresa**

### KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Good News
2. The Christians in Rome
3. The Jewish people
4. Pagans and Foreigners
5. Intellectuals

**A CATHOLIC PATRIOTISM**

By James Kalb

**How should we be good Catholics and good Americans?** Until recently that did not seem to be an issue to most of us. Separation of Church and State appeared to reconcile the Faith with a secular pluralist public order. The arrangement seemed to leave room for each to be what it is, do what it does, and cooperate in building a world that would be increasingly adequate to man's material, social, and spiritual needs.

That view looks increasingly unrealistic today. Policies cannot be coherent or rational unless they are oriented toward definite goals and standards. Modern governments believe themselves responsible for human well-being in general. To carry out that responsibility they necessarily adopt a particular understanding of man and his good and try to bring human life in line with it. That understanding is resolutely secular, so that's the direction they push life.

Progress always wants more, so as the project goes forward the pushes get harder. Government feels obligated, in the name of equality, harmony, and human well-being, to reform people in more and more ways, so it treats fewer and fewer aspects of life as beyond its reach. After all, how can public authorities safeguard individual health or reform gender relations without subjecting things to regulation that once seemed personal? So they end up trying to reshape all aspects of life in accordance with their own understandings.

It turns out that secularity and pluralism are neither tolerant nor pluralistic. They are governing philosophies, and insist on some things and exclude others. To make matters worse they recognize no principle higher than themselves, so their demands eventually become absolute. All else must give way before them, and in the end no room remains for God—a competing authority—unless He stops being God and becomes a poetic expression of the official outlook.

What to do? First, it is clear that the Faith comes before any secular cause, so if American beliefs come to be at odds with it we have to part ways with them. That has always been the case, but for a while the issue seemed only theoretical. Now that the conflict looks all too real we must accept and deal with it.

Doing so is our obligation as citizens as well as Catholics, and it's the most important aspect of our participation in public life today. America is not a system of beliefs but millions of people living together, so rejecting some beliefs now treated as official is not rejecting America. As Catholics, citizens, and human beings we are obligated to promote the common good of those with whom we live, and if there are beliefs and habits that injure the common good we should do what we can to improve matters.

The best way we can do so is offer an alternative, and we can do that by living as Catholics and defending the legitimacy and rightness of doing so. America needs a way of life that is more functional, rewarding, and solidly based than what pop culture and certified experts have to offer. The best thing we can do is present one. That means we must regroup and reform, so that we once again have a way of life that is noticeably different from that of our neighbors. If we don't then we're not contributing what we can to our country.

To live as a Catholic is to know the Faith, love God and neighbor, and act accordingly. That involves personal, family, and other mainly private concerns, but also participation in common life with both Catholics and non-Catholics. Participation takes various forms. They can be as simple as coaching Little League, joining the local gardening society, or participating in a neighborhood watch group. A difficulty with such efforts today is that official policies grow continually more intrusive. It's a sign of the times that the Boy Scouts and healthcare organizations are under increasing pressure to conform to the latest secular dogmas regarding life and sexual matters. Life goes on, and we must deal with what it gives us. We can start informally, for example by simply being good neighbors. We can also follow Dorothy Day's example. Her Catholic Worker houses refused

to apply for tax-exempt status and ignored government attempts at regulation on the grounds that they were just a collection of people carrying on their own activities. They weren't running soup kitchens, although it might have looked that way, they were just people having guests over for dinner. So why should government inspectors tell them what to do? Homeschooling networks avoid regulation as educational institutions by following a similar path.

Catholic anarchism is not enough, though. It is always possible to live as a Catholic even under an unfriendly government, but wanting to heal the sick normally means wanting to be able to do so in an organized way. That is difficult for Catholics if healthcare organizations are required, for example, to participate in abortion. So we must also defend the legitimacy of living as Catholics by publicly opposing legal and social obstacles to doing so. Since those obstacles suppress efforts to promote the common good, opposing them is also our obligation as citizens.

But how do we defend the freedom of the Church in an age that makes religion a matter of subjective private opinion? One way is to say our opinions are as good as other people's, and we like to follow them, so we should be allowed to do so. Nonetheless, a naked claim of religious freedom that applies as much to Satanists and Pastafarians as to Catholics isn't likely to get us far. Who cares about Catholic objections to so-called "reproductive health services" if they're just like objections of Christian Scientists to modern medicine generally? So our arguments have to be more substantive. In the long run we won't be able to defend the legitimacy of living as Catholics without defending the rightness or at least reasonableness of the Faith.

To do so is to engage in public apologetics. That too is necessary to a defense of our ability to live as Catholics. As such it is an obligation not only of the Faith but of citizenship and care for the common good. The Church presents the truth about God and man, and offers a better account of the good life than the views on which—for example—liberal human rights are based. It follows that it would be publicly helpful for it to replace the latter as a public standard. Catholicism as such is therefore in the public interest, and propagating it part of our duty as citizens.

If successful that effort would ultimately mean a Catholic America. That is a very distant goal, of course. Even the normal preliminaries to Catholic doctrine, like natural law and natural theology, have been driven from the public square. People accept privately that there's more to life than equality and the satisfaction of desires, and more to the world than atoms, the void, and human subjectivity, but such issues are excluded from public discussion, even though they are basic to the good life and any reasonable system of politics.

So at present such ultimate goals are more regulatory than immediately practical. They remind us not to sacrifice basic principle for immediate advantage. For now, though, we need to start at the beginning, and argue publicly the most basic points, like the authority of the natural family and the insufficiency of usefulness as a standard for the good, in the face of dogmatic denial that such points could have more than private validity. There are difficulties in doing so, but we have literacy, prosperity, every kind of intellectual resource, and a public life that is still mostly free. And also we have the obligation of promoting a better life for our fellow citizens, so what excuse do we have for not making our best efforts?

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. What does the word Gospel mean?
2. For whom did St. Mark write his Gospel?
3. For whom did St. Matthew write his Gospel?
4. For whom did St. Luke write his Gospel?
5. For whom did St. John write his Gospel?

**Answers on page four**

"Am I convinced of Christ's love for me and mine for Him?  
This conviction is the rock on which sanctity is built."

**Mother Teresa**

## **COVER SHEET**

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Phone Fr. Bryan or Maria at 201-768-1706 or email [olvrectory.hp@gmail.com](mailto:olvrectory.hp@gmail.com) with questions.