

Our Lady of Victories Church

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

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

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

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. John O'Connor

Rev. Brian Muzás

Latin Mass Assistants

Weekend Assistants

Br. Angelus CFR

Parish Seminarian

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella

Religious Education

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Jerryl Pulis & Meagan Mullany

Curtiss & Katie Stella

Jr. High School Ministry

High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

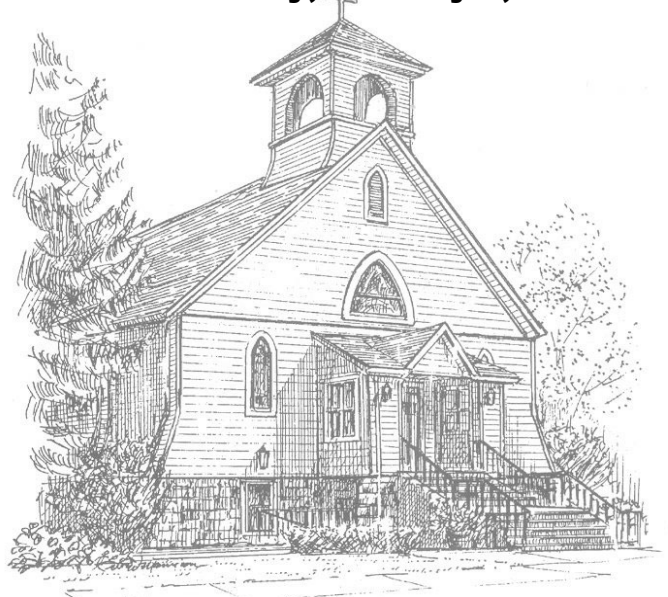
Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee

Sunday, January 8, 2017 A.D.



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, 8:15am (Latin)
9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,
1:00pm (Spanish)
6:00pm & 7:00pm

Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00a.m. & 12:00noon

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 3:00pm 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

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.



OLV Rectory
Phone: 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**: Br. Pius, William Biasi, John Bolger, Joey Bulger, Ellen Dunn, Catherine Fallon, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaei, Teresa Meierdierks, Kathleen Musante, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie & George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, and Jim Walsh.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"Be not proud of your works; for the judgments of God are different from the judgments of men; and often times that which displeases Him is what pleases men..."

Thomas Kempis, THE IMITATION OF CHRIST – Book 1.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Stop in and visit Jesus in the Tabernacle. You can do it here at OLV Parish. Our Church is open from 7AM -4:30PM (M-F).

HOMEBOUND

If you or anyone you know is homebound – even for a short duration of time - please contact the parish office so I or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion can be scheduled to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound.

VOCATIONS

Mary and Joseph raised their child in a family of love and faith. They directed Jesus to follow God's will for His life. Each of us must assist and allow our children to follow God's will in their lives. This is true even if God calls your child to serve Him as a Priest, or Religious Sister or Brother. For information see Fr. Bryan or call the Vocations office at 973-497-4365.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-3:15PM members of OLV parish meet and pray the Marian Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

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.

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession **at a minimum once a month**. This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 3:00-3:25PM. Monday through Friday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 7:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

HOLY HOUR AT OLV

Every Tuesday from 12:30-3:00PM. Every Thursday at 7:00PM OLV has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayers and quiet time. Every Friday OLV has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 12Noon to 3PM. Stop by and make a visit to our Eucharistic Lord.

OPINIONS

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents..."

THANK YOU

A special word of thanks goes out to all those who sent Christmas cards and plants, candies, baked goods, fruit baskets and other treats and for all the other ways you remembered me and the Rectory Staff during the Christmas Holy Days. Fr. Bryan

Learning in Utero

Science Daily reported in January that "newborns are much more attuned to the sounds of their native language than first thought. In fact, these linguistic whizzes can pick up on the distinctive sounds of their mother tongue while in utero, a new study has concluded. 'We have known for over 30 years that we begin learning prenatally about voices by listening to the sound of our mother talking,' said Christine Moon, a professor of psychology at Pacific Lutheran University. 'This is the first study that shows we learn about the particular speech sounds of our mother's language before we are born. This study moves the measurable result of experience with individual speech sounds from 6 months of age to before birth.'"

QUESTION:

Are Catholics still required to fast prior to reception of Holy Communion? The General Rule is that Catholics **should fast for one hour** from solid food and beverages, with the exception of water, before going to Holy Communion. The period of fast is reduced for those who are sick, in the hospital, advanced in age and for those caring for them.

DEFEAT GLOBAL TERRORISM

How do you defeat a global terrorist organization like ISIS, whose members are largely hidden throughout the world, and are willing to die in suicide bombings for their diabolical goals of worldwide mass murder and destruction? The ultimate answer is through prayer. The battle against ISIS is, at its roots, a spiritual battle against the Devil and the forces of darkness.

We believe Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Spiritual Mother of all peoples, has been given the power by God to crush the head of Satan (cf. Gen 3:15) and to successfully lead the spiritual battle against the great Dragon (cf. Rev. 12). Historically, Our Lady has repeatedly interceded for victories against foreign invasion seeking to destroy Christianity and Judeo-Christian civilization (e.g., Lepanto, 1571; Vienna, 1683).

Join the spiritual battle to stop ISIS. Please pray the Rosary every day, and include in your Rosary the intention "for the defeat of ISIS and for the conversion of its members."

Recently, Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Nigeria was praying before the Blessed Sacrament and asking Our Lord how to combat the horrific terrorist attacks of ISIS affiliate, Boko Haram upon the people of his diocese. Suddenly, Jesus appeared to the bishop with a sword in his hand. When Jesus handed the sword to the bishop, it turned into a Rosary. Jesus repeated three times: "Boko Haram gone." This confirms that it is heaven's directive that we battle and defeat ISIS through the power of the Rosary.

In this worldwide expression of prayer and unity, please add your name as a sign of your commitment to pray the Rosary daily to defeat ISIS. Let us entrust the spiritual defeat of ISIS to the most powerful intercession of Mary, the Spiritual Mother of all peoples and the Mediatrix of all graces.

Endorsements

Telesphore Cardinal Toppo, Cardinal Archbishop of Ranchi, India
Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop Emeritus of Cebu, Philippines
Archbishop John Njenga, Archbishop Emeritus of Mombassa, Kenya
Bishop Josef Maria Punt, Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam, Netherlands
Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme, Bishop of Maiduguri, Nigeria
Dr. Mark Miravalle, Professor of Theology, Franciscan University - Steubenville
Immaculée Ilibagiza, Worldwide Missionary for the Rosary and Forgiveness
Drew Mariani, Relevant Radio National Talk Show Host

Give before you are asked to.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Jan 10 -Tue—Moms, Pops and Tots 11:30AM-1:30PM
 Jan 10 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
 Jan 10—Tue—Social Concerns 7:00PM
 Jan 11—Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
 Jan 11 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
 Jan 13-Fri— Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
 Jan 28—Sat—K of C Beefsteak Dinner
 Jan 28/29—Sat/Sun—Rosary Society Baby Item Collection
 Feb 4—Sat—10:00AM—First Confession
 Apr 2— Sun—Rosary Breakfast
 May 21—Sun- 2:00PM -Confirmation

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
 Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
 Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
 Major 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;
 2nd Lieutenant Gigi McElroy, US Army;
 Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
 Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

BEEFSTEAK DINNER - 1/28/17

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians - men studying for the priesthood - and other charitable works. Please support this event. It is a fun evening, and last year it was a great success. If you would like to be a placemat advertiser send your business card and a check payable to the OLV K of C c/o The OLV K of C, PO Box 145, Harrington Park NJ 07640 or call Greg Evanella 201-784-5752.

Office of Concern Food Pantry at St. Cecilia

We are always in need and if you wish to contribute specific holiday foods such as cranberry sauce and other fixings, that is fine, but there are also **three areas of year-round foods that are especially valuable: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta (spaghetti, rigatoni, etc) and breakfast cereals.**

SUPPLEMENTING RETIREMENT WITH A PLANNED GIFT

Are you nearing retirement or are already retired and are looking to make a year-end gift? If so, a Charitable Gift Annuity can be a way to supplement your retirement income and help your parish at the same time. Also, if you are 70 1/2 or older, don't forget about the IRA Charitable Rollover. Let the Archdiocese of Newark help you set up a Charitable Gift Annuity. Contact Theresa Lynch in the Planned Giving Office—973-497-4042.

OLV Scripture STUDY

The OLV Bible Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00AM in the lower church. All are welcome to join us.

Dominican College Information Session

For those interested in Undergraduate/Graduate Degrees, including Undergrad online programs an information session is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, from 5:30-7:30PM in the Hennessy Center.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to parishioner Lisa LoSchiavo, a Senior at Paramus Catholic High School. Lisa achieved First Honors for the first quarter.

CLOTHING BINS

"Every end is a new beginning." These words are very hopeful and encouraging as we begin the New Year. For some who lack physical necessities and struggle with numerous problems on a daily basis, hope is a fleeting word. The many programs of Catholic Charities aim to restore hope and dignity. Please help us by contributing to the donation bin in the parish. We also need children's books. God Bless.

Retrouaille

Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring—your relationship grown cold, distant—thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated / divorced but (both of you) wish to try again—then Retrouaille program may help you. Retrouaille (Rediscovery) sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next program is scheduled for the weekend of February 10-12, 2017. All inquiries are confidential. For more information, please call the Family Life Office at 732-243-4573 or Tom and Pat McTague 732-583-4468 (evenings).

Alzheimer's Education Programs

Alzheimer's New Jersey will offer several free local education programs for caregivers who have a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia. These programs are free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information or to register, interested individuals can call our Helpline at 1-888-280-6055.

1/19-Senior Source, Kip Center, Rutherford—"Understanding Memory Loss"
 1/24—Closter Public Library-"Alzheimer's 101"

For a calendar of our education programs in New Jersey, visit www.alznj.org/services/education-and-training/community-education-programs.

PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY

O Prince of peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from You. For You are God, for ever and ever.

RESPECT LIFE

As we give thanks for the gift of life, consider the words of Pope John Paul II: "Causing death can never be considered a form of medical treatment. Rather, it runs completely counter to the health-care profession, which is meant to be an impassioned and unflinching affirmation of life."

- Gospel of Life

THE CHURCH & CREMATION

Are Roman Catholics allowed to be cremated? YES. In May 1963, the Vatican's Holy Office lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics in the U.S. to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the Code of Canon Law of 1983, as well as into the Order of Christian Funerals.

CCD Corner

Happy New Year! Today our CCD Children will return to the classrooms as the New Year begins with the knowledge that God loves us so much that he sent His Son into our world to save us. Like Jesus, who grew in age and wisdom under the watchful eye of his parents and the teachings of their faith, we are resolved in doing the same by sharing our knowledge and love of our Catholic faith with all of our students. One of our four pillars of learning this month will be the **Bible: its history and importance**. In our classes the children will be introduced (in many cases, reintroduced) to its origin and the important role it plays in understanding and learning our faith. Please keep them and their teachers in your prayers .

The Pink Sisters

PHILADELPHIA — For more than 100 years, the cloistered nuns known as the Pink Sisters have worked in shifts to ensure nonstop prayer in Philadelphia’s Chapel of Divine Love.

Now, to address their shrinking numbers and ensure their prayers continue for another century, the Roman Catholic Holy Spirit Adoration sisters have begun quietly reaching out, seeking to grow their order while carefully maintaining their secluded life.

In the last year, they hung a banner outside their chapel and convent as a way to let other people know about their daily public Masses. They’ve granted more interviews with news reporters. And they have begun inviting Catholic women’s organizations and schools to speak to the sisters — with all conversations taking place through the grille in the convent visiting room, of course.

There’s even a subtle recruitment flier hanging just inside the front door of the chapel. It encourages visitors to ask themselves three questions: Do you love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? Do you realize the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? Is Jesus calling you to say “yes” to a life of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament?

“We rarely reached out for vocation promotion before the centennial. But now we want young ladies to see how beautiful the life is and how truer the joy when it is without the trappings of material things,” said Sister Maria Clarissa, 55. “We do our part in addressing these challenges, but at the same time, we leave it to the Lord. He’s the one who calls.”

There were once as many as 40 nuns living in the Philadelphia convent. Now there are 20: The youngest is 52, and the oldest is 90. The order was founded in Holland in 1896 with a focus on the perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated bread they uphold as the body and blood of Christ. The rose-hued habits are meant to symbolize the joy the sisters feel honoring the Holy Spirit.

In 1915, nine of the original sisters left the motherhouse and came to Philadelphia, where they were invited to open the order’s second convent. Today there are about 420 Holy Spirit Adoration sisters living in 22 convents in 12 countries. There are three other US convents — in St. Louis; Corpus Christi, Texas; and Lincoln, Nebraska.

It may come as a surprise to some that a group of 20 nuns live a contemplative, secluded life not far from Philadelphia’s famed museums, historic landmarks and government. The sisters leave the cloister only for emergencies, such as medical appointments. When they do venture out, the sisters wear gray so as not to draw too much attention to themselves.

It is a selfless life, focused on offering intercessory prayers on behalf of people they will never meet living in places they will never see. They pray most of the day, together and individually in shifts before the Blessed Sacrament, generally waking up at 5:15 a.m. to prepare for the first daily service, going to bed after the 8 p.m. final prayers.

All the sisters have jobs. Some craft Mass cards and rosaries, the sales of which support the convent. Other sisters respond to letters and answer the phones. Some callers are lonely; others are suicidal. Just listening, the sisters say, seems to make a difference.

Sister Mary Angelica, 55, said she wants people who have lost touch with their faith to know there is always someone praying for them, “no matter what their need may be.”

An Uncommon Error

Along with the frontal assault on public Christmas displays, there is a concerted effort to remove any quotidian mention of Christ’s birth or life. According to these revisionists, Jesus’ existence must be expunged from the historical record. One means to their end is changing the standard nomenclature of BC and AD to BCE and ACE, that is from Before Christ and Anno Domini (Year of the Lord) to the utterly ambiguous Before the Common Era and After the Common Era.

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 9— The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 Frank and Lucy Pavese family R/b Connie and Mary Lou Roccanova
12:00 Thomas F. Lagatol II R/b the Lagatol Family

Tuesday, January 10—St. William, Bishop

8:00 Bridget Quinn R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Abina Glennon R/b Mike and Maureen Glennon

Wednesday, January 11—St. Paulinus of Friuli, Italy-Bishop of Aquileia

8:00 Frank Adamcik—5th Anniversary R/b the Adamcik Family
12:00 Charles and Alice Ruiz R/b Diana LoSchiavo

Thursday, January 12—St. Benedict Biscop-Abbot

8:00 Rev. Zachary H. Monet, O.Carm—4th Anniversary R/b Pat Consoli
12:00 Dianne Melchiorre R/b George and Claire Meyer

Friday, January 13—St. Hilary-Bishop of Poitiers, France

8:00 Veronica Haskell R/b Sandy Perrini
12:00 Domenico Bandiera R/b the Garzino Family

Saturday, January 14— St. Sava-Bishop of Serbia

8:00 Antonia Busanic R/b the Busanic Family
12:00 John Zanetti and Ida Mae Walsh R/b the Zanetti Family
4:00 Elizabeth Torre R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
5:00 Josephine Raymond R/b William Raymond

Sunday, January 15—St. Ida of Waterford, Ireland-Virgin

7:30 Veronica Haskell R/b Lou and Carole Beierle
8:15 Gertrude Walker R/b Marita Morgan
9:30 Larry Longo R/b the Bentivegna Family
10:45 Alice Periera—2nd Anniversary R/b the Davies Family
12:00 Carol McGrath R/b Rita McNamara
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Robert Nugent R/b Jane Desmond
7:00 Gloria Walker R/b Al and Mary Clare McLaughlin

Sanctuary Memorials

The Sanctuary Votive Lamp burns this week for the men and women who serve in defense of our country.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week in memory of Barbara Davies, r/b the Davies Family.

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

The Hosts and Wine used at Mass this week have been donated in memory of Kevin O’Brien, r/b Richard and Mary C. O’Brien.

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns for the unemployed.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

It is through the generosity of our advertisers that we are able to place this bulletin into your hands, each week, without cost to the Parish. Why not get into the habit of looking through the ads and giving your neighbors/merchants a chance to serve your needs. Tell them you read about them in the OLV Parish Bulletin.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by the Rectory any weekday and meet Maria and register to become a member of the OLV Family. Census forms are also located in the Church vestibule

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. About 2.2 billion. 2. About half. 3. Brazil, with nearly 134 million Catholics. There are about 74 million Catholics in the United States, about 35 million in Poland and about 50 million in Italy. 4. The United States. There are about 160 million Protestants in the US, nearly 29 million in Germany, nearly 60 million in Nigeria and about 14 million in Indonesia. 5. Russia. There are over 101 million Orthodox Christians in Russia, nearly 2 million Orthodox Christians in the United States, about 10 million in Greece, and nearly 4 million in Egypt.

Elizabeth Ann Seton

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton feast was celebrated this past week January 4, She was the first American born Saint and in her brief life, (she died at just 46) Mother Seton had been a Protestant who hobnobbed with the rich and powerful; she even hosted George Washington's 1797 birthday bash! After her husband's shipping business crashed, also wrecking his health, she became a bankrupt widow at 30 with five children, two of whom predeceased her. After converting to Catholicism, she was disowned and scorned by her family; thus she's the very busy patron saint of those with irksome in-laws. Dirt poor, this determined "working mother" persisted in her dream of laying the groundwork for the USA's Catholic School system. Ever obedient to God's will, even when it meant embracing many bitter crosses, she remained faithful and strong; she often had to confront and challenge government leaders and bishops, but never became a bitter, radical feminist. The orations for her feast day, the day she died (January 4, 1821), offer further spiritual food for reflection on her heroic life.

Daily service. In a pep talk to her Sisters, Mother Seton said, "The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner He wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is His will." Unlike many of us, Mother Seton did not work simply to pay the bills, put food on the table, or clothes on the kids; nor was she saving up so she could go back to the days of wining and dining, traveling, and enjoying the latest fad or creature comforts. She strove to live by Christ's words, "Do not work for what perishes but what endures for eternal life." (John 6:27a) Like her, we are called to help build up God's Kingdom on earth. What are you doing to know God's will, and thus please God by living the words we so often pray, "Thy will be done?"

Daily Eucharist. The Protestant community she was baptized into had, and still has, an "almost Catholic" understanding of the Eucharist. But since they lack Apostolic Succession, the outward unity with the Pope and Bishops and Church teaching, they do not have what Catholic would consider a valid Eucharist. One of the main reasons Mother Seton converted was so she could receive, or at least pray before, our Lord's Real Presence in the Sacrament every day! As she once wrote, "To receive the Daily Bread and to do the Sacred Will – that is fixed point." So should it be with us; for at each Mass we are more deeply inserted into the mystery of Christ and His life-giving sacrifice.

Daily Meditation. We say, "Grace builds on nature", for God never forces Himself upon us. Instead, God invites us, each day, to discover our gifts and talents, and to consider how we can use them to meet the world's needs and concerns, challenges, and woes. Each Eucharist graces us with the divine help we need to follow Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's example of total dedication to serving God...through others!

FYI

While "Cleaning of the Stones" at the National Cemetery in Holly there was a quarter placed on one of the stones. Later noticed a nickel placed on another stone, intrigued I took pictures and googled about the coins, and found this out. I am very proud to share this.

A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased soldier's family know that somebody stopped by to pay their respect. Leaving a penny means you visited. A nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained at boot camp together. If you served with the soldier, you leave a dime. A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that soldier died.

KIDZ KORNER

1. How many Christians are there in the world today?
2. What share of all Christians around the world are Catholics?
3. Which country has the most Catholics?
4. Which country has the most Protestants?
5. Which country has more Orthodox Christians?

Answers on page 4

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios being the same, it would look something like the following: There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (both North & South), and 8 Africans. There would be 52 females and 48 males. There would be 30 whites and 70 non-whites. There would be 70 non-Christians and only 30 Christians. 6 individuals would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth, and all 6 would be from the United States. 80 of the individuals would live in substandard housing. 70 individuals would be unable to read. 50 would suffer from malnutrition. One would be near death, and another would be near birth. ONLY one individual would have a college education and one would own a computer. When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

HEAPS OF HEALING HUMOR

I was inspired by a woman in her fourth stage of ovarian cancer. Even her doctors were amazed at how well she was doing. Her secret? Laughter. "My sense of humor helps me find a lighter side of things, even on tough days," she told me. What do we need to survive life's heartaches? Heaps of healing humor. Healing humor reduces stress, elevates moods, boosts the immune system and fosters relaxation. It helps us overlook the ugly, tolerate the unpleasant, cope with surprises, and smile through the unbearable. Humor is a shock absorber, minimizing the pain troubles can bring. Today's people seem to be serious about everything. Some go through life with their finger on the panic button, crossing bridges before they get to them, certain trouble is just around the corner. The prescription for those suffering from humor-deficiency: an injection of laughter. People with positive outlooks laugh often to relieve themselves of life's tears. A good belly laugh stirs the blood, expands the chest, and clears the cobwebs from the brain. Laughter is a gift we need to survive. If it's missing, put it back! Remember: Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and all you get is wet!

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Father Gustave De Ravignan, S.L 1858

"Believe me, my dear friends - believe an experience ripened by thirty years in the sacred ministry, I do here affirm that all deceptions, all spiritual deficiencies, all miseries, all falls, all faults, and even the most serious wanderings out of the right path, all proceed from this simple source - a want of constancy in prayer. Live the life of prayer; learn to bring everything, to change everything, into prayer - pains and trials and temptations of all kinds. Pray in calm, pray in storm; pray on waking, and pray during the daytime; going and coming, pray; tired out and distracted, pray; whatsoever your repugnance may be, pray. Pray that you may learn to pray. 'Teach us, O Lord, how to pray,' 'But I cannot pray.' That is heresy. Yes, you can always pray. If you feel a disgust - nay, a horror of prayer, pray on; pray in spite of yourself, against yourself. Beg for the courage in prayer which our agonizing Savior merited for you by His pangs in Gethsemane and upon Calvary. Pray, for prayer is the strength which saves, the courage which perseveres, the mystic bridge cast over the abyss which joins the soul to God. 'And being in an agony, He prayed the longer.'"

CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE TERMINALLY ILL WITH CANCER

Rosary Hill Home, owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, NY, since 1901, is committed to providing loving, one-on-one palliative care to those suffering from terminal cancer. Free to all who meet the Admission requirements. The Sisters depend solely upon the "providence of God and the hourly mercy of the charitable public;" no payment is accepted from patients, their families, private insurance or from the government. For information call 914-769-0114 or visit www.rosaryhillhome.org.

Nothing is more disturbing than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.