

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, KCHS *Pastor*

SUNDAY, November 26, 2017 A.D.

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KCHS

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 Gulfo

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Michael Flynn & 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



SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:00pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

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

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

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

St Peregrine: First Friday 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 6:30pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:30pm

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.

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 8:00am & 12:00noon



Find us on
Facebook

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**: William Biasi, Joey Bulger, Rich Ferrara, Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Gloria Genovese, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Lisa LoSchiavo, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaei, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Mary Younghans.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"Worldly men go out of their way to make souls lose God as soon as possible; and then, make them lose the world. They do not love this world of ours - they exploit it by trampling over others. I hope you too do not fall victim to this double swindle."

St. Josemaria Escriva - The Furrow #304

TUESDAY AFTERNOON PRAYER GROUP

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00PM-3:00PM we have a group who are praying a **Marian Novena Rosary** in Church in front of the Blessed Sacrament. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

BABIES IN THE WOMB FEEL PAIN

LifeNet is working to end abortion at 20 weeks as babies in the womb experience pain during their abortion. So far 17 states have passed laws protecting pain capable babies. In New Jersey, LifeNet's project 20/20 is to protect at 20 weeks post fertilization by the year 2020. For more information on this project or how you can help, contact LifeNet at 171 Clinton Ave. Newark or www.lifeneteducation.org or 973-497-4500.

ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays from 12:30PM—3:00PM, Thursday night from 7:00PM—8:00PM, and Fridays from 12:30PM—3:00PM.

So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.

BEEFSTEAK DINNER - 1/27/18

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians - men studying for the priesthood and other charitable works. It is a fun evening, and last year it was a great success. Please support this dinner. 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 45, Harrington Park NJ 07640 or call Greg Evanela 201-784-5752.

QUIT SMOKING

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. Nearly 70% of smokers want to stop and have tried to stop. They generally don't know the best way to stop. A majority of smokers try to do it cold turkey, which is the least successful method. To help smokers quit, the American Lung Association has published a "Quit Smoking Action Plan" and it is on the internet under www.lungusa.org. The plan includes info on how to prepare to quit, how various medications can help, and how quitters can stay smoke free.

How to Report Abuse

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child/Youth Protection at 201-407-3256.

FIVE FINGER PRAYER

Make the 5 finger prayer a part of your life.

1. **Your thumb** is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the **pointing finger**. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the **tallest finger**. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the President, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our **ring finger**. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger (as any piano teacher will testify). It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our **little finger** - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

GIVING TREE

Giving Tree Gifts must be brought to OLV by Sunday, December 10th. Please remember the less fortunate as you shop and prepare for Christmas.

SICK OR "HOMEBOUND"

If you are sick or "homebound" (or know someone who is), and would like to have Communion, please contact the Rectory at 201-768-1706.

ARE YOU LISTENING???

As Jesus was dying on the cross, an inscription above His head proclaimed, "This is the King of the Jews." Today, we are called to proclaim this King to people who are sick or dying, to people who are lonely or abused, to all God's people. Are you being called to proclaim Christ our King as a Priest, deacon, or a Religious Brother or Sister? If so, please contact the Vocations Office at 973-497-4365.

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 3:00-3:30PM, every morning at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6:30PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

THE FRIENDSHIP FACTOR

Five important steps to getting and keeping good friends:

- Give your friendships top priority.
- Don't take them for granted.
- Cultivate transparency. Be open and honest with your friends.
- Let your friends know they mean a lot to you. Affirm your friends and tell them you appreciate their friendship.
- Learn the gestures of love. In other words, do things for your friends unselfishly. Put your friendship into action.
- Create space in your relationship. Don't try to control the other person. Allow them to be themselves. Accept them the way they are!!!

"The longer you stay away from Holy Communion, the more your soul will become weak, and in the end you will become dangerously indifferent."

St. John Bosco

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

- Nov 28 -Tue—Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
- Nov 29 - Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
- Nov 29 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
- Nov 30 - Thu – Holy Hour 7:00PM
- Dec 1 - Fri– Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
- Dec 1 - Fri– Mass & devotions to Sacred Heart 7:00PM
- Dec 2- Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00Noon & 3:00-3:25PM
- Dec 2 - Sat—AA - lower Church 6:30-8:30PM
- Dec 8 - Fri - Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation
- Dec 10 - Sun — Giving Tree Gifts due back.

Moms Pops and Tots will recess until January 10, 2018.

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

- Private First Class Matthew Brady, U.S. Marine Corps;
- Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
- Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
- Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
- 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
- Specialist Peter Dipolito, U.S. Army;
- Major Michael Franson, US Army;
- Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
- Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
- Lance Corporal Thomas lafrate, U.S. Marine Corps;
- Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
- Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
- Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
- Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
- SN Daniel T. LoVecchio, U.S. Navy;
- Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
- Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

Twass the month before Christmas

Twas the month before Christmas when all through our land, not a Christian was praying nor taking a stand. Why the PC Police had taken away, the reason for Christmas - no one could say. The children were told by their schools not to sing, about Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things. It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say, December 25th is just a "Holiday". Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit, pushing folks down to the floor just to get it! CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod. Something was changing, something quite odd! Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanza in hopes to sell books by Franken and Fonda. As Targets were hanging their trees upside down, at Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found. At K-Mart and Staples and Penney's and Sears, you won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears. Inclusive, sensitive, di-ver-si-ty, are words that were used to intimidate me. Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpston, Wolf Blitzen. On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton! At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter to eliminate Jesus, in all public matter. And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith. Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace, the true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded. The reason for the season, stopped before it started. So as you celebrate "Winter Break" under your "Dream Tree", sipping your Starbucks, listen to me... Choose your words carefully, choose what you say, Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS, not Happy Holiday"

Bereavement Group

OLV will be hosting a six week bereavement group on Wednesday evenings—limited to the first seven individuals who register at the rectory. Call Maria ASAP 768-1706.

DID YOU KNOW?

The liturgical year ends today with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King. Pope Pius XI established this feast in 1925 to address increased Western secularism. In a world that was placing its faith and hope in weapons of destruction, in the acquisition of worldly goods, and a world that was eliminating God and His Law from government policy, Pope Pius sounded an alarm. He redirected our focus to Christ and His Universal Kingship. Sadly, only after the horrors of World War II, was Pope Pius XI seen as a true prophet, who tried to save the world from so much pain and sorrow! In his encyclical on the Kingship of Christ, Pius XI explained the various powers of Christ's Kingdom and its dual nature. Although Christ's Kingdom is primarily spiritual, he said it also extends to certain civic matters. He tried to help us see ourselves as God's subjects, not God's equal! He defended Christ's Kingship by pointing out that, unlike corrupt kings who usurp power and dominion through war and intrigue, Christ has Kingship over all people, places, things, and times by His nature and by His essence. As the eternal Son of God, as the Word through whom all things were made, Christ always has been and always will be the King of angels, of people and all created things! In addition, as our Redeemer who conquered sin and death by his own death and resurrection, Christ is truly our King! To Him we owe all our gratitude, honor, respect, and praise. Perhaps Pope Pius XI was right: we need to be reminded that our King's throne was a cross, His Crown was made of thorns, His royal scepter and robe were mockingly given to Him by the very soldiers who beat Him, and most of His earthly subjects abandoned Him at His death! Jesus Christ is a King of LOVE, for only a God-man filled with love would endure all that! Christians are to offer all their concerns, dreams, plans and hopes to our King. From our King we are gifted with order—with a Church—and the promised final triumph of the Gospel of Christianity and the conversion of all those opposed to Christ's Kingship over them. Thus, freed from all worry and concern as to how the "big picture" will end, we can busy ourselves with the day-to-day tasks of building Christ's Kingdom here on earth!

THE MODERN DAY SLAVE TRADE

Incredible as it may sound, commercial traffic in African slaves continues to this day, particularly in the countries of Mauritania and the Sudan. Like the slavery of the past, it is run by African and Muslim underlords. Every year, tens of thousands of mostly Christian African women and young men are sold to buyers in African states in the United Arab Emirates. The U.S. Department and the United Nations report on this sickening activity, but little else is done about it. The governments of the world have done little to nothing to end the slave trade. However, several private-sector humanitarian groups have taken to buying the slaves to free them.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

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

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?" **Jay Leno**

7 Steps to a Holier Life

by Mother Teresa

Step one: Slow down. "I think the world today is upside down. Everybody seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater development and greater riches and so on. There is much suffering because there is so very little love in homes and in family life. We have no time for our children, we have no time for each other; there is no time to enjoy each other. In the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world."

Step two: Make some room. "If you are discouraged it is a sign of pride because it shows you trust in your own power. Your self-sufficiency, your selfishness and your intellectual pride will inhibit His coming to live in your heart because God cannot fill what is already full. It is as simple as that."

Step three: Open your eyes. "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."

Step four: Put great love into the small things. "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."

Step five: Do not tire. "Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired."

Step six: Remember – it's faithfulness, not success. "God doesn't ask that we succeed in everything, but that we are faithful. However beautiful our work may be, let us not become attached to it. Always remain prepared to give it up, without losing your peace."

Step seven: Leave the rest to Jesus. "Be humble and you will never be disturbed. It is very difficult in practice because we all want to see the result of our work. Leave it to Jesus."

SAVE USED EYEGLASSES

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

WEDDING

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Holy Joy

1. True joy must have foundations in reality. The foundations of holy joy are the mysteries of the Rosary. If we can keep our minds and hearts on them, we shall never lose our joy.
2. Sufferings, disappointments, persecutions, frustrations, contradictions, insults, the low opinion of others, lack of consideration, coldness: all these are permitted by God as a challenge to the virtue of holy joy.
3. Holy joy is the outpouring of devotion, the measure of faith.
4. Holy joy must flow from the highest supernatural fountainheads. When we fail to kindle a virtue from inside, we can always try to start from the outside: one short prayer or ejaculation, or a little work of faith, can often be the spark.
5. Holy joy is the radiance produced by the presence of the other virtues in the soul. When the utterance of the Holy Names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph fail to put joy in our hearts, there is something wrong with our faith.

GOD'S HOUSE

The Church is God's special dwelling place and some people come to pray so please be aware of this and please refrain from idle chatter before and after Mass. We should behave differently in God's House as opposed to being at home, at the mall, a grocery store or a civic center.

Christmas Greens Sale

Our Lady of Victories Parish is conducting a wreath and grave blanket sale. All proceeds of this sale will support our Youth Ministry Program. Thank you for your support.

Mass Intentions

- Monday, November 27 – St. Maximus, Bishop**
 8:00 Intentions of Matthew Brady R/b Dan and Karen Brady
 12:00 Peter T. Stonitsch R/b Peter and Carole Stonitsch
 7:00 *Convent* Souls in Purgatory
- Tuesday, November 28 - St. James of the March, Priest**
 8:00 Marijan Fizulich R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
 12:00 Katie Cirillo R/b Judy Pommett
- Wednesday, November 29– St. Saturninus, Bishop & Martyr**
 8:00 Samuel J. Burruano R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel
 12:00 Lizette Donnelly—1st Anniversary R/b John and Anna Heaney
- Thursday, November 30– St. Andrew, Apostle**
 8:00 Intentions of Matthew Brady R/b Dan and Karen Brady
 12:00 Michael Giotta R/b Anne Giotta
- First Friday, December 1-St. Florence of Asia Minor-Laywoman**
 8:00 Edward Korn R/b the Burruano Family
 12:00 Giron Family R/b Raphael and Margoth Giron
 7:00 Charles and Alice Ruiz R/b Diana LoSchiavo
- First Saturday, December 2—St. Bibiana of Rome-Virgin and Martyr**
 8:00 Catherine Fallon R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh
 12:00 Souls in Purgatory
- Sunday, Dec. 3—St. Francis Xavier of Spain-Missionary Priest**
 7:30 Veronica Kucera R/b Tony and Laura Scott
 8:15 Basil Fargnoli R/b Irene Kristof
 9:30 Angie Tummenello R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico
 10:45 Elizabeth Corrigan R/b John and Eileen McAdams
 12:00 Michael Lawton - 1st Anniversary R/b Frank and Ann Diller
 1:00 People of the Parish
 6:00 Edward Sheehan R/b the Pedersen Family
 7:00 Michael Murtaugh R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

- The Church Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the men and women who serve in defense of our country.
- The Convent Sanctuary Lamp** burns for the souls in Purgatory.
- The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns this week for the intentions of Eddie, Diana and John Witkowski, r/b Stephen and Robin Hartman.
- The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** burns this week for a special intention, r/b the Werner Family.
- The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp** burns this week for the unemployed.
- The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp** burns this week for an increase in religious vocations.
- The St. Peregrine Votive Lamp** burns this week for the intentions of Carla, Clare, Debbie, Jim, Margoth, and Rich.

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Jesus.
2. No.
3. Mary.
4. God.
5. King Herod.

"The virtue of patience is the one which most assures us of perfection." Saint Francis de Sales

Why Satan Is So Scared of St. John Paul II, According to Rome's Chief Exorcist by David Kerr

The chief exorcist of Rome is seeing a rising number of young people coming under the influence of evil, but he has found in recent years that St. John Paul II is a powerful intercessor in the battle for souls. A small, unassuming office in southwest Rome seems a rather ordinary setting in which to play out a grand battle between good and evil. It is here, though, that Father Gabriele Amorth has carried out most of his 70,000 exorcisms over the past 30 years.

The Ordinary & Extraordinary Powers of the Devil

"The world must know that Satan exists," he told CNA in 2011. "The devil and demons are many and they have two powers, the ordinary and the extraordinary." The 86-year-old Italian priest of the Society of St. Paul and official exorcist for the Diocese of Rome explained the difference. "The so-called ordinary power is that of tempting man to distance himself from God and take him to Hell. This action is exercised against all men and women of all places and religions."

As for the extraordinary powers used by Satan, Fr. Amorth explained it as how the Devil acts when he focuses his attention more specifically on a person. He categorized the expression of that attention into four types: diabolical possession; diabolical vexation like in the case of Padre Pio, who was beaten by the Devil; obsessions which are able to lead a person to desperation and infestation, and when the Devil occupies a space, an animal or even an object."

Fr. Amorth says such extraordinary occurrences are rare but on the rise. He's particularly worried by the number of young people being affected by Satan through sects, séances and drugs. He never despairs though. "With Jesus Christ and Mary, God has promised us that he will never allow temptations greater than our strengths." Hence he gives a very matter-of-fact guide that everybody can use in the fight against Satan.

"The temptations of the Devil are defeated first of all by avoiding occasions (of temptation), because the Devil always seeks out our weakest points. And, then, with prayer. We Christians have an advantage because we have the Word of Jesus, we have the sacraments, prayer to God."

Not surprisingly, 'Jesus Christ' is the name Fr. Amorth most often calls upon to expel demons. But he also turns to saintly men and women for their heavenly assistance. Interestingly, he said that in recent years one man – Pope John Paul II – has proved to be a particularly powerful intercessor. "I have asked the demon more than once, 'Why are you so scared of John Paul II and I have had two different responses, both interesting. One, 'because he disrupted my plans.' And, I think that he is referring to the fall of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe. The collapse of communism."

"Another response that he gave me, 'because he pulled so many young people from my hands.' There are so many young people who, thanks to John Paul II, were converted. Perhaps some were already Christian but not practicing, but then with John Paul II they came back to the practice. 'He pulled so many young people out of my hands.'" And the most powerful intercessor of all? "Of course, the Madonna is even more effective. Ah, when you invoke Mary!" "And, once I also asked Satan, 'but why are you more scared when I invoke Our Lady than when I invoke Jesus Christ?' He answered me, 'Because I am more humiliated to be defeated by a human creature than being defeated by him.'"

The intercession of the living is also important, though, says Fr. Amorth. He reminds people that exorcism is a prayer and, as such, Christians can pray to liberate a soul or place from the Devil. However, three things are needed. "The Lord gave them (the Apostles) an answer that also for us exorcists is very important. He said that overcoming this type of demon, you need much faith, much prayer and much fasting. Faith, prayer and fasting." "Especially faith, you need so much faith. Many times also in the healings, Jesus does not say in the Gospel it is me who has healed

you. He says, you are healed thanks to your faith. He wants faith in the people, a strong and absolute faith. Without faith you can do nothing."

\$20.00

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. Well, he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air. "My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who DO LOVE you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE. You are special - Don't EVER forget it." Count your blessings, not your problems. "And remember: amateurs built the ark. professionals built the Titanic. If God brings you to it - He will bring you through it."

DEFEND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Over the course of the last generation, Christianity and in particular our Catholic Faith has been under attack. Anti-Catholicism is the last acceptable prejudice. What can we do about it? Besides prayer, all Catholics should join The Catholic League at www.catholicleague.org or 450 Seventh Avenue, NY, NY 10123 and receive the journal, The Catalyst, which has articles detailing where Catholicism is under attack and by whom. As Christmas approaches, we will see secularism creep in and try to wrestle and strip the season of its Christian elements.

FLAWED, BUT SALVAGEABLE

Radical Protestantism sees the world as so far beyond hope it has no redeeming qualities, and is only saved when God looks *through* it to see Christ. Catholicism sees the world as fundamentally flawed, but basically good; why else would God become man and live in it? Yet Catholics also recognize that the world *needs something only God* can supply: the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Some get so caught up in the beauty of *this* world they fail to see the Creator within it; but do we get so caught up in the signs and symbols of the sacraments that we fail to see Jesus' presence within them? As this oration reminds us, we will not see it clearly until we possess it in the truth of heaven, but if we look more closely now – and use what is right before us, we can make our life and our world a better place!

KIDZ KORNER

1. Whose birth do we celebrate on December 25th?
2. Did Jesus have any brothers and sisters?
3. Who was Jesus' mother?
4. Who was Jesus' father?
5. Who was King of Israel when Jesus was born?

Answers on page four

**Prayer doesn't need proof,
It needs practice.**