

April 9, 2017

Remembering Father Tom Crowley (June 1950- March 2017)

We were all shocked and saddened to learn last Wednesday (March 29), that our former and beloved pastor at OLHOC (from 2004-2011), Fr. Tom Crowley had died. We all knew that Fr. Crowley had been sick as we kept praying for his healing at our daily and Sunday Masses for the last few weeks. But he had been seriously ill before and then he had fully recovered. We knew that he had a strong will to recover and we expected him to surmount his recent illness. He had been on our parish prayer list for a long time. We will continue praying for him. We will pray for the repose of his soul. May his soul be at peace. May God, all-merciful, say: "Welcome my faithful servant!"

On the very day Fr. Crowley passed away, we were able to offer a Mass for the repose of his soul. We had already planned a Mass at 8 pm on March 29 on the occasion of the extraordinary visit of the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, in this year of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to three little children in Portugal. Thanks to technology, we could let most of our parishioners know of the intention of this special Mass. Many of you were there. The church was packed with close to 400 people. There was much sadness as we remembered Fr. Crowley and his seven years as our pastor at OLHOC. But there was also a sense of closure and peace, as we knew how much he had suffered through a series of illnesses. The time had come for God to call back his faithful servant. Fr. Crowley had given 40 years of his life to Christ, serving him as a priest from 1976-2017. Just one year ago, Fr. Crowley was honored by Cardinal Wuerl for having served the Archdiocese of Washington for 40 full years as a priest! Fr. Crowley had been ordained at the young age of 26. He had literally given his whole life to Christ and the Church.

On Sunday, March 19 (just a short time ago...), I invited Deacon Bill and his wife Rhonda to come with me and visit Fr. Crowley. I had just learned that he had been hospitalized. This was the last time we would see Fr. Crowley. We spent over half an hour with him. His mind was sharp and witty as ever. As we were leaving, I asked Father if he had any message for OLHOC parishioners. His answer was simple: "Give them all my love and thanks for their prayers!" Our next question was would he welcome visits from some parishioners? His answer was much shorter: "No!" We all knew that Fr. Crowley was a very private person and that even when he fell ill while being our pastor at OLHOC, he chose not to share information about his health. We also knew how much he loved our parish and our parishioners! We will all have more opportunities to share our fond memories of Fr. Crowley. One way to remember him would be to collect stories about his amazing sense of humor and I invite you to share such stories with us by sending an email to: office@olhoc.org.

You are all invited to continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Crowley. We will have two other Memorial Masses for him: 10 am Mass on Palm Sunday and 7 pm Mass on Holy

Mass Intention

Saturday, April 8, 9:00 AM: Joseph Mondesir +
Saturday, April 8, 5:00 PM: Donald Cuozzo, Sr. +
Sunday, April 9, 8:30 AM: Walter E. Forgash +
Sunday, April 9, 10:00 AM: Fr. Thomas Crowley +
Sunday, April 9, 11:30 AM: Marcus Williams
Wednesday, April 12, 9:00 AM: Pat Griesert +
Thursday, April 13, 7:00 PM: Fr. Thomas Crowley +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Don Kopanyi, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, Jessica Curry Miller, LaShay Barnes, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, John Lohman, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Michael Sofield Jr., Elinore Fortney, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joassaint, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr., Phillip Green, Doris Chesley, Patricia & James Robey, Dick White, Ada Johnson, James Thompson, Sean Guido, Marcus Williams, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Fr. Thomas Crowley and Rita Scott.

Mass Readings for April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
First Reading- Acts of the Apostles 10: vs. 34a, 37-43
Second Reading- Colossians 3: vs. 1-4
Gospel- John 20: vs. 1-9

2017 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual **Jubilarian Mass** honoring couples married **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and 51+ years** on **Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 2 pm** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please use the sign-up forms on the bulletin table to register (required) and turn them into the ushers or the office. All forms must be to the OLHOC office no later than Thursday, April 20.

cont.) Thursday. While we continue praying for his soul, we can also begin to ask for his prayers, as we hope that our all-merciful God will soon ask him to join Him forever and ever in the beautiful paradise we call Heaven!

As we enter this Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday, may God bless all of us and all our families as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ together at Easter!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2016-2017 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

April 9/10, 16/17- Easter Break/No CCD

April 21- Confirmation Yr. I Retreat (4:30-9:30 pm- Social Hall)

April 23/24- CCD Classes

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org

Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm, ; April 2, 9, 30; May 7)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)

FIAT: elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

Attention Families!!

The next **All-Youth Night** (FIAT, Edge and Life Teen) will be **April 30** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by pizza, fellowship and FIAT, Edge, and Life Teen meetings. Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present.

- **April 24@ 6:30 pm- Archbishop Neale ES, La Plata**
- **May 18 @7 pm- St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick**

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112 with questions or if you need assistance with this process.



2017 The Triduum and Holy Week Schedule

April 13-Holy Thursday-(No morning Mass): 7:00 PM- Solemn Service (Institution of the Priesthood and the Eucharist) followed by Procession & Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Bi-lingual).

April 14-Good Friday- (No morning Mass): 7:00 PM- 2:30 PM- Stations of the Cross; 5:00 PM- Solemn Service of the Passion (Spanish) 7:00 PM- Solemn Service of the Passion (English).

April 15- Holy Saturday- (No morning Mass): 11:00 AM: Blessing of the Food; No 4:00 PM Confessions; No 5:00 PM Mass; 8:00 PM- Easter Vigil Mass.

April 16- Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord- 8:30 AM- Mass; 10:00 AM- Mass; 11:30 AM- Mass; 7:00 PM- Mass (Spanish).

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

- Fall registration continues for all new students.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, April 20, 2017** (OLHOC Confirmation Students as sponsor) at Good Shepherd Church. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **May 3 at 7 pm**.

Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link. or sign-up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc

Meals on Wheels

The **Meals on Wheels** program is currently seeking volunteers for the **Waldorf/St. Charles** route who can donate **2-3 hours** of their time, one day a month. If you are interested in working with this special organization that helps those in need/homebound, please contact Kathy at (301)-843-8295.

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & France

Our parish is organizing this pilgrimage, **August 6-16, 2017**, celebrating the **100th year anniversary** of the apparitions of **Our Lady in Fatima** and the **Feast of Our Lady of the Bread Giver in Aire Sur La Lys** (Home parish of Fr. Narcisse Martin). Fr. Alain will be the Spiritual Director for the pilgrimage. There are detailed flyers available in the narthex and on the parish bulletin board. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please sign up on one of the lists in the narthex or contact **May Oteyza at 301-843-7784**. Please do not delay; Seats are limited, but still available for this once-in-a-lifetime faith journey!



Mary's Helping Hands Bake Sale

The ladies of **Mary's Helping Hands** (Knights of Columbus Auxiliary) will hold a bake sale and raffle (Celebrate America Basket) on Sunday, **April 23** in the narthex. There will be a large variety of post-Lenten and Easter celebration treats!