

September 10, 2017

Five Messages From Fatima: P. R.A.R.S.!

It has now been about three weeks since we returned from a most amazing **pilgrimage to Fatima** and several Marian sites in France. Throughout the 11 days of the entire pilgrimage the early messages we heard in the first three days (a long transatlantic flight and two full days in Fatima itself) resonated to the ears of our 40 pilgrims from Waldorf. As I was making a short presentation to our parishioners on the First Saturday of this month (September 1st), right after the 9 am Mass (everyone is invited to some food, fellowship and reflection at 10 am every First Saturday), I summarized in **five points** the messages I personally took away from Fatima, but also from my personal experience of the entire pilgrimage. Here they are in an order, not of priority, but in an order to remember them through the acronym PRARS.

1. **PEACE:** Our Lady of Fatima invites all of us to Pray for Peace Daily! The world was in the midst of World War I in 1917. The need to pray for peace is as important today as it was 100 years ago. At the end of every daily Mass (9 am in our Chapel), we pray together for peace through the intercession of the Virgin Mary and the **Memorare** (Remember O Most Gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone...) – peace in our hearts, peace in our families, peace in our communities, peace in our country, peace in the whole world.
2. **ROSARY:** Our Lady of Fatima invites all of us to Pray the Rosary Daily! If you have never prayed the Rosary, you can learn in five minutes; if you have not prayed the Rosary for quite some time, start again. Maybe start with one decade of the Rosary. Then, add another decade the following week. You will find the Rosary a beautiful way to meditate on the Mysteries related to Our Lord Jesus Christ, and to also find the presence of Mary as a mother who is always there to protect and lead us to Her Son! You can also join us any day at our church and pray the Rosary as a community (8:30 am every day, except on Sunday when we begin at 7:30 am).
3. **ADORATION:** The **Angel of the Lord**, who appeared to the three children in Fatima in 1916 (just a few months before the first apparition of Our Lady in May 1917), had several messages. The one that touched my heart the most this year is his call for **Adoration** of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the **Blessed Sacrament**. **Silent Adoration** is an amazing experience. Initially, it may be a bit dry. But quickly, one can learn that by adoring Jesus in silence, we find an amazing peace, and are able to listen to Jesus whispering in our hearts! We just completed this Saturday at 5 pm, 37 continuous hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, one for each year of existence of our parish! If you missed coming for one hour of Adoration this week, you can come any day at 8 am at our church and find the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.
4. **RECONCILIATION/REPARATION OF SINS:** Our Lady of Fatima invites us to reconcile with God (Sacrament of Reconciliation-Confession). She also invites us to pray for the Reparation of our own sins and those of the whole world, and therefore, to pray for the Conversion of Sinners. Try to come to Confession once a month! Come on **five First Saturdays** consecutively and receive many blessings by receiving the Eucharist, going to Reconciliation (Confession)

Mass Intention

- Saturday, Sept. 9, 9:00 AM: Clive Alexis
 Saturday, Sept. 9, 5:00 PM: Eva Gnall +
 Sunday, Sept. 10, 8:30 AM: Jessica Curry-Miller +
 Sunday, Sept. 10, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
 Sunday, Sept. 10, 11:30 AM: Richard Di Liberto +
 Tuesday, Sept. 12, 9:00 AM: All Souls in Purgatory
 Thursday, Sept. 14, 9:00 AM: Christine Couto

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Fr. Robert Pittman, Denise Zois, Gary Settler, Scott Settler, Yolanda Brenoes, Elsie & Rodalin Canare, Brenda Dodson, Sarah Parker, Elaine Townley, Juliann Leginze, Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Edmond Ferguson, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Kopec, John Cumpion, Barbara Lagman, Joe Martinez, Ann Gillespie, Julie King, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Therese Gendron, Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beinhert, Mike Connolly, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Elinore Fortney, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, 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.

Mass Readings for September 17, 2017

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Sirach 27: vs. 30 – 28:7

Second Reading- Romans 14: vs. 7-9

Gospel- Matthew 18: vs. 21-35

(cont.), praying the Rosary, meditation of one of the Rosary Mysteries for 15 minutes, and doing all this for Reparation of Sins.

5. **SACRIFICE:** Our Lady of Fatima invites us to offer to God our own sufferings as a sacrifice. Sacrifice means “to make **Holy**” (Sacrum Facens, in Latin). Our Lady of Fatima invites us to accept our sufferings and to go beyond our comfort zone! Do whatever you do for the sake of getting closer to Jesus, for the sake of becoming holier!

As we are blessed by the visit of Cardinal McCarrick this weekend (11: 30 am Mass this Sunday), and we begin a **new day** for our entire parish community, I invite all of us to reflect on the above five simple messages from Our Lady of Fatima and see how they can assist us in our **journey of faith** in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Fatima (ending this November).

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Religious Education Classes

CCD Classes begin **September 17/18, 2017!** Families must **re-register each year** to ensure contact info is up-to-date. Please register online now (www.olhoc.org) so class assignments can be made and communicated in a timely manner.

Share the Faith!

Catechists, parent volunteers, and teen volunteers are needed for the CCD year. If you have ever considered answering the Lord's call to be a witness of the Faith to the children of our parish, please be sure to contact Therese or complete the RE Volunteer form online: www.olhoc.org/revolunteer.

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- check website)

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 on September 24 and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! **Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.**

Easing the Pain of Hunger

Mary's Helping Hands is sponsoring a fundraiser to provide food and snacks for **Charles County students**, who are identified by school staff as students **living in crisis**. The funds raised will be supporting the Southern Maryland Food Bank and Outreach Services. Please support this fundraiser at **Applebees in La Plata and Waldorf** on **Thursday, September 21, 2017** for lunch or dinner (**11 am to closing**). You must present a flyer (will be in the bulletin Sept. 16/17) before ordering your meal for your donation to count. Flyers will be in the Sept. 16/17 bulletins or you may print one out at www.southernmarylandfoodbank.com.

RCIA Invitation

Registration for the 2017-2018 RCIA class has begun. We meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Come and meet the Team Members. If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.org.

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

Join us for *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* at OLHOC at 9:30 am every Sunday. If there is enough interest, we will offer this Catholic Bible Study at 11:15 am also. For more information or to register for this study, call **Therese** at 301-645-7112 or via email at : dre@olhoc.org. **Note:** There will be no class Sept. 10, due the Anniversary celebration.



Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus **Dr. John Henry Griffin Council #2293** will be selling raffle tickets after each Mass for \$1.00 a chance to win a brand new 2018 car.

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.

2017 Jubilee of Fatima Schedule

Celebrate the joy of the **100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima** right here in Charles County.

- Wednesday, **September 13, St. Joseph, Pomfret, MD at 6:30 pm.** (NOTE: the 7 pm Mass at OLHOC is cancelled so all may attend the celebration at St. Joseph's.)
- Friday, **October 13, Sacred Heart, La Plata, MD at 6:00 pm.** (Procession/Closing Mass)

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" are for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present). Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, September 21, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **October 4** at 7 pm. **All are welcome!**

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

OLHOC Coat Drive

The box for the annual OLHOC Coat Drive . There will be a box in the Social Hall to collect coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for adults to be donated to the shelters and Children's Aid.

MCP Missionary

From Lay Missionary Grace Gallagher, "On behalf of the Diocese of Puerto Plata, I want to thank you for the warm welcome and generous donations of the people of OLHOC. We are so grateful!"

Reminders

- **Poor Box** is located on the right wall as you exit the narthex.
- **No gum, food, drink, crayons** in the new pews.