

September 8, 2019

**A TIME TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS:  
A NEW BEGINNING IN THE JOY OF CHRIST!**

**A TIME TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS: A NEW BEGINNING IN THE JOY OF CHRIST!** This coming Sunday September 15, we enter our 40th YEAR as a parish. While we advance in age and wisdom, we remain one of the youngest parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington. In the Bible, 40 is a significant number: the people of Israel wandering 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land, Jesus fasting 40 days in the desert. In our society today, 40 Years of age is an important milestone for anyone. It is the entrance into the FIFTH DECADE of life, often referred to as MID-LIFE. For some of us, reaching the mid-life point raises the level of anxieties and one talks about Mid-Life Crisis. For others, reaching mid-life is just the opposite; it is an opportunity to rethink the purpose of life in a creative and positive way. At OLHOC, we see REACHING OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY as an opportunity to CELEBRATE PAST ACHIEVEMENTS and TO ENTER A NEW BEGINNING IN THE JOY OF CHRIST!

**IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE!** It is time to celebrate 40 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF WALDORF. It is time to look back and reflect on the achievements of our first four decades. It is time to renew our Spiritual Life as a Parish. It is time to strengthen our parish as a CHRISTIAN FAMILY OF FAMILIES. It is time to renew our commitment to our Parish Mission:

**BRINGING ALL TO CHRIST  
SHARING CHRIST WITH ALL  
BEING ONE IN CHRIST**

It is time to renew our efforts of evangelization. While the Waldorf area population has more than doubled in the last 30 years, fewer people practice their Christian Faith. Waldorf is evangelization territory. We need to be intentional Disciples of Christ, meaning that our entire life focuses on Christ. We need to depend totally on the HOLY SPIRIT to guide us. We need to ask Mary's protection. We need the help of more volunteers (especially teachers and teacher aides in CCD at this time). We need to reach out to people in their homes. We need to strengthen our unity as a parish while celebrating our diversity. We know that we BECOME WHAT WE CELEBRATE. If we celebrate the growing and innovative participation of our current YOUTH in parish activities, we will all become more YOUTHFUL. If we celebrate the JOY OF SINGING at OLHOC, not only will we attract more volunteer musicians to help the existing ten choirs ( one for each

of our eight regular week-end Masses, plus the Youth and Children Choirs ) but all of us worshipping at OLHOC will be more JOYFUL and PRAYERFUL (to sing is to pray twice!).

In this context, I am inviting each of our many volunteer ministries (e.g. Youth, Music, Altar Guild, Adult Faith Formation, Scripture Prayer Groups, Religious Education, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Parish Councils, Couples for Christ, Neo-Catechumenal Way, St Andrew School of Evangelization, Adoration, Homebound Ministry, Ushers, Lectors, Greeters, Knights of Columbus, Marian Group etc.) to have a special celebration of their past achievements in the course of the next 12 months (between now and mid-September 2020 when we reach 40 years of age). If you have any specific suggestions, please pass them on to the leader of your volunteer ministry (with copy to me).

OUR 40 YEAR CELEBRATIONS will begin with 40 HOURS OF ADORATION, from 1 AM on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13 till 5 PM SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14. You are all invited to come and spend ONE-HOUR IN ADORATION! See sign-up sheet in Narthex. We are honored that BISHOP DORSONVILLE will be with us this coming SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15. He will be the main celebrant and homilist at the 11:30 AM MASS and will join us at our traditional PICNIC (always held on the Sunday close to our parish anniversary date: September 15). We are grateful that he has accepted our invitation to help us enter into the 12 months of celebrating our 40th anniversary.

May God keep blessing our parish and all our past, present and future parishioners!

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of Your Love, and help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary with Joy, Peace and Love! Come Holy Spirit; help us enter a new beginning in the Joy of Christ!



*One in Christ,  
Father Alain*