



Our Lady of Sorrows Church
March 26, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

We cannot thank the priests from India enough, who help us in this country during our time of shortages of native vocations. Likewise, we are so grateful to have Fr. Wilfred from Cameroon, Africa to help us while his main mission in this country is to study for a doctorate in communications.

The ideal for every diocese is that we have enough seminarians and, ultimately, priests to fulfill the need of the local communities.

Endless studies have been done to determine why only a few dioceses in this country have enough and most diocese must depend on the missionary spirit of other countries.

For decades our diocese has depended on the priests coming from Ireland to fulfill the dire shortage. In the last three months we lost two of our diocesan priests because God called them to their reward in heaven. Of these is Fr. Andy Kennedy (Our Lady of Lourdes), a missionary from Ireland who joined our diocese, and the other we buried two months ago, Fr. Giardino, a native of Birmingham serving our diocese for 41 years. Then we "lost" two priests, Fr. Bazzel (Cathedral of St. Paul) and Fr. McDonald (St. Aloysius) to assignments in Rome.

We presently have one young man, Chuck Deering, Jr., who is in his first year in the seminary. He will need five more years. We have two others thinking. One is thinking of the Benedictines. If he does join, it will be eight years, at least, before ordination. The other not-so-young man must finish personal business first so that, in about a year and a half, he might enter with five years to go before ordination.

Six dioceses out of some 196 in this country do not have a shortage. The rest of the

country does. But this country is not anywhere as desperate as the Latin American countries.

After reading many pages on the solution in this country, the summary is:

1. More prayers before the Blessed Sacrament for vocations, since we know that God is calling. Those called need extra grace and courage in our day and time;
2. Having a zealous Vocations Director, which we have in Fr. Rick Chenault;
3. A bishop who is open to the work of a bishop to keep encouraging young men who are interested in the priesthood and/or religious life; this we also have.

We have the Vocations Director and we have the necessary bishop for vocations. The question is, to what extent is the diocese praying, and parish priests assisting the director in this endeavor?

The Rosary is prayed daily before the 7:30 a.m. Mass for vocations, but that is a fraction of our people. The Lord said in the Gospel of St. Luke:

"Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into His vineyard. The harvest is indeed great and the laborers are few."

The point is, every one of us needs to pray, and be it known that anyone of us three parish priests is most open to discuss vocations, confidentially, with anyone who has any questions about it. If you are thinking in this direction, just call one of our priests.

Our present Pope Francis has faced the terrible shortage of vocations in Latin America and, also, in other places of the world. The media has announced that Pope Francis is willing to consider ordaining married men, but has not considered optional celibacy for those in the seminary and those already ordained. With the high rate of divorce and

unsuccessful marriages, the pope, wisely, would like men already solidly and successfully married for years before ordination. I have long thought of the practicality of ordaining successfully married deacons.

With 10,000 to 20,000 Catholics per priest in Latin America, we are trading no sacraments to hundreds of thousands for a celibate clergy.

Let every Catholic who benefits from a priest know of the obligation to pray for more vocations, for those who are called by God to have the extra courage to answer this call.

With prayers and blessings,
Fr. Muller

Correction: In last week's *From the Pastor's Desk*, the American Heritage Girls were described as a "spin off" of the Girl Scouts. This was incorrect. The AHG serve GOD FIRST and foremost, and this alone sets them apart from other scouting organizations.



Mass Intentions

Monday, March 27	Special Intention Elizabeth Saia Rose Maggio
Tuesday, March 28	Rev. Andy Kennedy Sp. Int. Jeff & Catherine Hahn & family Joe Naro
Wednesday, March 29	Special Intention Elizabeth Guercio Rev. Charles Cross
Thursday, March 30	Special Intention Norman Naccari Anne Vickers
Friday, March 31	Sr. Mary Gabriel Sp. Int. Victor Rumore & family Virginia Cherre
Saturday, April 1	Donors to OLS School Foundation Louise Battaglia Irene & Jack Bell
Sunday, April 2	Sp. Int. Laura Vizzina/People of the Parish Louise Battaglia Paul Connell



Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday of Lent at 7 p.m.

First Saturday Devotions will be held on Saturday, April 1, at 7:15 a.m.

First Friday Devotions will be held on Friday, April 7, at 6:00 a.m.



Vivian Bonamy, Jeanne Wright, Vita D'Amico, Mary Ann Huie, Melanie Gilchrist, Charlie Kai Wadsworth

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

Monday at 9 AM (With Partner)

Tuesday at 1 PM (With Partner)

Saturday at 11:00 AM (With Partner)

Our goal is to have at least 2 people on each hour. These are the hours needed, but do select an hour that best fits your schedule.

Please call Mary Claire Brouillette at 871-2909 or Trudy Carpri at 643-0248.

"Perpetual Adoration extends its influence far beyond the individual adorers, touching their homes and families, and reaching out to the parish community and beyond." (*Blessed Pope Paul VI 1891-1978*)

Adult Ed. will not meet April 2. We will resume class on April 9.

Attention Parishioners: OLS will now have an email notification system to alert you to deaths within our parish. We may later extend this notification system to include the closing of the Church and Chapel due to inclement weather, etc. This email will have no reply option available; it is for your information only. If you would like to receive this notification, please submit your name and email address to ols@ourladyofsorrows.com. Please contact Fran Robertson at 822-1142 with any questions.

**Here's the Scoop
on EDGE Youth Group!**

March 26: Enjoy your Spring Break! Edge will resume on April 9!

Camp Hidden Lake: All participants are required to make regular deposits until camp balances are paid off. Paperwork is due April 30.

**What's Goin on
In High School Youth Group?**

March 26: No meeting. See you April 9. Have a great Spring Break!

The Madonna and Child Guild will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the 3rd floor Youth Room of the Family Life Center, and on Friday, April 7, at 9 a.m. in the Sodality Room. Nursery is available for the April 7, meeting by sending a reservation to epenherskiart@charter.net. For additional information please contact Becky at rcplaczek@gmail.com.

OLS Habitat for Humanity *Building on Faith Work Day* is Saturday, April 1, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. OLS and other parishes are coming together to build a Habitat home in honor of Pope Francis. OLS has committed \$5000 and 25 volunteers to help Sonja Cole build her home. No skills required; anyone 14 years old and older can participate and you can come for as little as 4 hours. We need volunteers. To sign up, contact Adam Morel at adam@morellawfirm.com or 903-2562.

March Bridge Winners:

- 1st Margaret White
- 2nd Bill Kelly
- 3rd Polly Kelly

Register now for Vacation Bible School
www.ourladyofsorrowsspr.com



The best week of the summer!

June 12-16th, 2017

9 am- 12 pm Monday-Friday

Rising 4K-4th grade

We need volunteers too! Register www.ourladyofsorrowsspr.com

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 13th

Mass of the Lord's Supper 5 & 7 p.m.
(Nursery Provided)

Good Friday, April 14th

Meditation on the Seven Last Words 12 – 2:20 p.m.
Stations of the Cross 2:30 p.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 7 p.m.
(Nursery Provided)

Holy Saturday, April 15th

EASTER VIGIL 8 p.m.
(Nursery Provided)

Easter Sunday, April 16th

7 a.m.
8:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
10 a.m. (Church & Parish Hall - Nursery Provided)
11:30 a.m.
6 p.m.