



*Our Lady of Sorrows Church*  
September 3, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

There is a flyer in this bulletin on "convert stories", people searching for the truth, shopping around for certainty in the faith, or leaving the faith and then somehow coming back like a new convert. These true narratives help us realize how much people APPRECIATE the faith. Sometimes, we who are born Catholics are like those "born with a silver spoon in their mouths", not appreciating what they have without working for it.

We have a local "convert story" that not only makes us appreciate our faith, but has a secondary lesson: Importance of a simple invitation.

Ash Wednesday 2017, two pharmacists are in conversation. The one, Laura Vizzina, Catholic, tells the non-Catholic about the evening Mass at OLS that Ash Wednesday. He had asked a couple questions about the Catholic faith before, so she INVITED him to the evening Mass on Ash Wednesday. He has come to Mass ever since, and not just Sundays, but DAILY Mass before he goes to work. He is signed up for the RCIA class and his wife is also going to come. Their daughter is already coming to the Parish School of Religion on Sundays.

The second lesson in this narrative is that, while God makes the converts with His Graces, we are supposed to give the INVITATION, as did Laura Vizzina this recent Ash Wednesday.

By virtue of our baptism we are to be "missionaries". That simple invitation can mean so much. We don't force or badger people. Most people feel complimented that we invited them to Church and to the RCIA Class. I think half of us know someone who would at least appreciate the invitation. The

class starts on October 2, this year. Think about extending the "INVITATION" if you know someone who might be interested.

In John's Gospel, Chapter 1, Phillip extended an invitation to Nathaniel (alias Bartholomew). He tells him that he (Phillip) has found the Messiah. Nathaniel is skeptical and says, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Phillip says to him, "COME AND SEE!" When Nathaniel sees Jesus, Jesus tells him something only God could know and BAM, Bartholomew becomes one of the 12 Apostles.

With the foundation and history of the papacy, along with the Biblical references of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, I find it easy to explain the faith to those interested.

My two messages from this desk this Sunday are: 1) Appreciate the faith like a convert and; 2) Extend the invitation to those searching; they are more numerous than most of us think.

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller



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

---

### **Extraordinary Ministers and Altar Servers:**

If you are interested in being an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist or if you have children in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade or above who are interested in altar serving, please contact Kent Graeve at 999-3474 or kentgraeve@gmail.com.

**Training for new altar servers**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above, will take place in September. Please register with Kent Graeve.

## Hurricane Relief

Bishop Baker has asked that we generously contribute to the Hurricane Relief Fund. We all have watched the destruction occurring on TV and would like to help, by our prayers and donations to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We especially would like to help the bishops of those places where there is great need. Please send your donation to the Diocese of Birmingham (Hurricane Relief Fund), P.O. Box 12047, Birmingham, AL 35202.



Monday, Sept. 4	Fr. Jim Macey Louise Battaglia Anthony Ross
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Special Intention Anthony Ross Bill Thomas
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Special Intention Louise Battaglia Charlotte & Sam Lewis
Thursday, Sept. 7	Fr. Jim Macey Anthony Ross Mary Holly
Friday, Sept. 8	Sp. Int. Anthony Marino Elizabeth Guercio Lena Carbonie
Saturday, Sept. 9	Donors to OLS School Foundation Anthony Ross Brian Criswell
Sunday, Sept. 10	People of the Parish Joe Ippolito Sp. Int. Bill & Debbie Barranco & family

## CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

**Sunday at 5:00 AM**

**Saturday at 4:00 PM (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.

**Everyone is invited to join us at Adult Education** on Sunday, Sept. 10. Our speaker will be Ginny Dooley, High School

Youth Minister. Her topic is *Ten Ways to Evangelize: It's Easier than you Think*. The gathering begins in the Parish Hall at 9:45 a.m. with fellowship and light refreshments and the class begins at 10 a.m.

## Our Lady of Sorrows Feast

*Friday, September 15*

Please join us for  
music meditation  
at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Church.

The Prayer Service  
will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A dinner will immediately follow in the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Everyone is welcome!  
Join us on this  
special day!**

**The Annual Priest Retreat is scheduled for September 11-14.** Our Mass schedule for that week will be adjusted as follows:

**Monday, Sept. 11:** No Change

**Tuesday – Thursday, Sept. 12-14:**

Communion Services at 6:30 a.m. & 7:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 14:** School Mass at 9 a.m.

**High School Catechist Needed!** If you feel called to work with the youth of our parish, we are in need of a catechist to work with our high school class during Sunday morning PSR. Responsibilities will be shared with another catechist. Please contact Suzanne at [dre@ourladyofsorrows.com](mailto:dre@ourladyofsorrows.com) or 871-1431.

**St. Ann's Guild** will hold its monthly meeting/luncheon on Wednesday, September 6, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Paula Gasser at 807-6072.

**Madonna & Child** welcomes all mothers to join us for our first meeting on Friday, September 8, at 9 a.m. in the Sodality Room. Breakfast will be served and childcare is available. To make your childcare reservations, please email Erin Penhershki at [epenhershkiart@charter.net](mailto:epenhershkiart@charter.net) with the name and birthdate of your child(ren) no later than Wednesday, Sept. 6.

---

**Give back to God and become involved in His Church!** If you are hesitant to participate in the ministries of the Church, just come and see what a blessing it can be to serve the Lord by serving others and your parish family. There will be a parish-wide Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 10, in the Family Life Center. Please join us after the 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Masses. Come by for coffee and doughnuts and see how you can be a part of this blessed parish!

---

**Bereavement Committee:**

Father Muller has graciously given permission to form a committee to serve a meal following funeral services of an OLS member. If you feel called to this ministry, there will be a meeting Monday, September 11, at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Formation of teams and how they will function, as well as menus and other details will be discussed. If you cannot attend this meeting, but are interested, please contact Jane De Meis at 337-0023.

---

**Youth Protection I** training will be held on September 14, from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This class is for anyone who volunteers with children or youth in our parish. Must be 21 or older to participate. Registration deadline is September 12. Register at [www.ourladyofsorrows.com](http://www.ourladyofsorrows.com).

---

**Bible Study for Women**

Are you looking to grow in prayer, scripture study, and service? We encourage all women of the parish to join the women's bible

study as we begin with a study on Ephesians. We will come to know, love and pray for one another "for we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them." (Ephesians 2:10) We meet every Tuesday morning from 9 -11 a.m. in the Family Life Center beginning September 12. Sign-up forms are in the vestibule or contact Mary Ann Graeve at 908-2728

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

**No Meetings over Labor Day Weekend!**

**Sunday, Sept. 10:** 7-8:30 p.m. Dinner, Small Groups, and Adoration in the Church.

Every Wednesday we meet in the youth room from 7-8:30 p.m. for dinner, small groups, scripture, discussion, reflection and more! All are welcome.

[olsyouth.com](http://olsyouth.com)

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

**Sunday, Sept. 3:** No meeting! Enjoy your Labor Day weekend. Edge will resume on September 10.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6:** Join us for dinner and a Parent Meeting in the Youth Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the FLC). Come learn about what is in store for Edge this year! Teens are welcome. Contact Carol at [carol@olsyouth.com](mailto:carol@olsyouth.com) to RSVP.

**Saturday, Sept. 23:** The Diocese of Birmingham is hosting the first annual **Eucharistic Youth Congress!** This event is from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville and features music by P.J. Anderson. **Open to 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Contact Ginny ([ginny@olsyouth.com](mailto:ginny@olsyouth.com)) or Carol ([carol@olsyouth.com](mailto:carol@olsyouth.com)) for more information or to register.**

# *Conversion Stories*

## **Tuning into the Faith**

After I lost my darling Mama, I was agnostic for five years. One morning I was channel surfing; Mass was in progress on EWTN, and it moved me. Then, watching Mother Angelica re-runs, I grew ashamed at my lack of faith. Reared Presbyterian, I began RCIA classes in September 2014 and was confirmed at the Easter Vigil in 2015. Thank you Jesus, Mary, EWTN and Mother Angelica!

Carl Dobson  
Asheville, North Carolina

---

## **Finding the faith of his father in prayer**

One day my sister stopped by with a box of some things that belonged to our dad, who had passed away some 28 years ago. One of the items I chose was a small prayer book of his. I'm not sure why, but I took the small booklet and placed it on my nightstand, where it sat unread. About a year had passed, and I was back on the path of trying prayer again, this time for my son with whom I had a strained relationship. We argued about everything, it seemed. I had an app on my phone to help me with prayers, including guiding me through the mysteries of the Rosary. That day I decided to set my dad's prayer book next to me as I used the app to get myself "once around the beads" on the rosary. As I was praying, I placed my hand on this small prayer book. I was halfway around the rosary when suddenly I felt a warm, gentle hand upon my hand that was resting on this small prayer booklet. Instantly, I somehow knew it was my father's hand gently holding mine. It startled me, yet I was frozen with the thought of what I was experiencing. Then, in the next moment, it was as if he was proudly displaying the fact that he was, with his other hand, holding the hand of Jesus!

I didn't see anything; I didn't hear anything; yet I knew somehow, with absolutely no doubt whatsoever, that what I was experiencing was so very real. Overcome by emotions, I began to cry like a baby. Joy and love filled my heart, and I realized I was given a true miracle.

Brian Courtright  
Antelope, California

## **Led to the Church**

Don't worry," I told my mother, "I'll never join the Catholic Church." Why did I feel the need to reassure her? Because my wife, Terry, was a cradle Catholic from Detroit, and I was a Baptist from Mississippi. My parents, who had been Baptist missionaries in Bolivia, were not thrilled about our "mixed" marriage.

When we started dating my intention was to attend Baptist services on my own and Mass with Terry, but that arrangement inevitably proved unsatisfactory. Gradually I lost my Baptist identity because the pull the Catholic Church was exerting on me was relentless and irresistible. As I became more aware of Church history and the beauty of all things Catholic, the attraction intensified, but still I resisted. And then, in 2001, something monumental happened to me. I came across a recently published biography of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, a figure from my childhood who once had a popular TV program. My discovery of Archbishop Sheen's videos and books was transformative. No one had ever explained the Faith to me with such clarity, elegance and good cheer.

Since entering the Church I've experienced abundant joy and never looked back. Thanks be to God.

Melvin S. Arrington, Jr.  
Oxford, Mississippi

---

## **Spouses separately find their way to the Church**

My husband, Chad, was raised Southern Baptist. I was raised Pentecostal. After we married, we became Methodist. When he returned from his second overseas deployment and we made our third military move in three years of marriage, we began interviewing pastors to find our new church home in the Washington, D.C., area. One Sunday we sat on the back porch of our Arlington, Virginia, apartment. "Chad, I have something I need to tell you." I stated as I pulled the newspaper down from his view, "I have been thinking about becoming Catholic." "Me, too!" he exclaimed. It turns out he had been on a U.S. Navy ship in the Mediterranean Sea for seven months talking to the chaplain about converting. Meanwhile, I had been in North Carolina, coincidentally surrounded by catholic girlfriends who had answered my questions and given me tapes and books to learn more about eh Roman Catholic Church. We both had decided quietly in our hearts not to convert unless we both did, not knowing that God was working on both of us at the same time.

Jessica Drake  
Jacksonville, North Carolina