



Our Lady of Sorrows Church
October 7, 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Father John Robinson was born and raised in Birmingham. He went to the minor seminary at St. Bernard for two years and then to Mt. St. Mary's seminary for six years. His passionate desire in life was to be a priest. This passion remained with him all of his life. He was assigned to the southern part of the Mobile-Birmingham diocese. When, in 1969, the diocese was split, Fr. Robinson became a priest of the Mobile diocese, where he served in different parishes. He served the longest at Holy Family. They love him, dearly, there. At retirement age he chose to come back to Birmingham, still a priest of Mobile, but with great volunteer service to St. Peter's.

In the 1970's, when there were a number of priests who left the priesthood to marry, Father John stayed the course of the celibate priesthood.

In my day in the seminary, we looked up, highly, to seminarians who were above us in studies. Fr. John was three years above me, so we never became close.

Father Robinson was the "quiet priest," except when he preached. Then he became most forceful for matters of social justice and other doctrines of the faith. He was a forerunner in having women as lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

In those last six years of his life, when I would see him with a back brace and a neck brace, my heart went out to him, and I thought of the words of a retreat master who, when talking to us seminarians, said that he felt most like a priest, not in the confessional or at the altar, but when he was suffering. I don't know about the theology of the statement, but the grain of truth never left me for 55 years and, so, I saw Fr. Robinson as a priest so close to Christ.

For the last six years Fr. John had multiple health problems that debilitated him. I will never forget the day, about two years ago, when I was in the office and Fr. John's driver came in and said that Fr. John was in the car in the parking lot and wanted to be anointed. He, who had anointed hundreds of people, was now asking to be anointed and received the sacrament with such devotion, reverence and appreciation. On that occasion, he paid me several undeserved compliments of encouragement. We priests live by the grace of God through the prayers of our people. It is Christ, Himself, who acts through all those sacred signs we call the sacraments. So, we don't deserve compliments, but need encouragement. So, we know how much any good we do comes from the grace of God.

The day before Fr. Robinson died, our great Minister of the Sick, Jane DeMeis, told me we needed to anoint him. He looked like he was "lingering" before the doors of heaven, as he seemed to be for some months. The next day, with the news of his death, Jane expressed regret. I expressed relief and gratitude to God, because Fr. John was ready for heaven.

When a dear friend of mine, Lt. McCormack, of the Homewood Police Department, was "lingering in suffering," he told me that it was more suffering than he deserved. I told him he was like Christ, more suffering than Jesus deserved, and to offer the suffering to God for sinners. That's the way it was with Fr. John Robinson, more suffering than he deserved, so he offered it up for others.

Last Sunday we wrote FPD on palliative care, which is making a person comfortable when there is no hope for a cure. It is relieving the pain, physically, through medication. However, there is another aspect of palliative care, which is mentally making a person comfortable, giving that person encouragement, love, and spiritual care. Fr. Robinson had one relative who was just such a person, Mary Jean Cox. Every Sunday we gave her two Hosts, one for herself and one in the pyx for Fr. Robinson. From heaven Fr. Robinson will be praying for all of us who

remembered him so well; he will start with praying for Mary Jean, who spent endless hours every day feeding him physically and, most especially, feeding him with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Unwed Mother: Last Tuesday, as I was leaving the office, the front desk secretary told me there was a woman in the conference room who was six months pregnant, unwed, who had been sleeping in her car. She was crying in desperation. The child's father was physically abusive to the woman and left her. She had no family.

Since I was a chaplain for unwed mothers, while attending Catholic University during the summers in the early 1960's, before Roe v. Wade, I knew her difficulty, plus the huge advantage of putting a child up for adoption. We gave her money for better sleeping conditions and medical expenses, told her the advantages of putting the child up for adoption, and gave her the number of Catholic Family Services. She agreed to have the child and give him/her up for adoption.

Because we all give to Catholic Charities, Catholic Family Services will take complete charge of her and give parents a child for which they have longed, and for which they have been praying. Because you give to the parish charity fund, we could help her that very hour.

If you have not put your good will on a pledge card, there are pledge cards in the pews.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

Tuesday at 7 PM (With Partner)

Wednesday at 10 AM (Need Committed Adorer)

Friday at 9 AM (Need Committed Adorer)

Friday at 11 PM (Need Committed Adorer)

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.



Monday, Oct. 8	Special Intention Annie Diergo Sp. Int. Carl Barranco & family
Tuesday, Oct. 9	Sp. Int. Anna Bonner Joseph Schilleci Sp. Int. Bonnie Barranco & family
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Joe Alfano Annie Diergo Sp. Int. Marianne DeJohn
Thursday, Oct. 11	Sp. Int. Frank & Vita D'Amico Sp. Int. Joe Saia Lena Carruba
Friday, Oct. 12	Special Intention Joseph Schilleci Shay McNamee
Saturday, Oct. 13	Donors to OLS School Foundation Lena Mae DiChiara Josephine Sicola
Sunday, Oct. 14	People of the Parish Viena Schnexnayder Annie Diergo



Jeanette Gutkowski, Kenny Skellie, William Pickard, Vita D'Amico, Mary Ann Huie, Charlie Kai Wadsworth, Margie Cole

Everyone is invited to attend Adult Education on Sunday, Oct. 21. Our speaker will be Kent Graeve. He will lead us in Part 1 of a Bible Study. 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. Childcare is available in the nursery.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Guild will meet on Tuesday, October 9, at 6 p.m. in the Sodality Room. We will prepare grocery bags for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Don't forget to bring a non-perishable breakfast food item for the First Light Women's Shelter. New members are welcome to join us.

Our Lady of Grace Guild will meet in the Sodality room on Monday, October 8, at 10:30 a.m. Don't forget your sandwich. Please remember to bring your paper products for the Catholic Center of Concern. All are welcome.

Madonna and Child Guild will meet on Friday, October 12, at 9 a.m. All moms are invited to join us. Jacqueline DeMarco will speak following our Rosary. Her topic is "Finding Balance in Today's Hectic Lifestyle." Childcare is available upon request. Please email your child's name and date of birth to ashleypeters@gmail.com.

EVERYONE COUNTS! Today is Respect Life Sunday. The annual Respect Life Program is a year round nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life. Please stop by the table in the vestibule and pick up free information about all life issues.

Bishop Baker invites everyone to join him for the 10th Annual Rosary for Life and Vocations this Sunday, October 7, at the Lourdes Shrine on the grounds of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, beginning at 3 p.m. This year the Rosary will be said for Reparation and Reconciliation. All are invited to come and pray.



Dancing with the Stars of the Magic City will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, at the historical Lyric Theatre. Proceeds will benefit First Light's emergency shelter and expansive services for homeless women and families. Stars include Tyler Watts (former University of Alabama Quarterback), Patsy Riley (former First Lady of Alabama), Paul DeMarco (attorney and former member of the Alabama House of Representatives), and other community luminaries. For more information:

www.firstlighshelter.org/events or 205-323-4277.

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

LifeTeen High School

Sunday, Oct. 7: Faith Formation at 10 a.m. in the youth room. We will be studying the validity of *The Bible*. Life Teen at 7 p.m. Dinner followed by games and a talk. We will be teaching about the reality of death and judgment as a consequence of original sin but instilling hope in Jesus Christ as our loving and merciful judge.

Wed. Oct. 10: "Summit" Scripture study! A co-ed Bible study focusing on the Sunday Mass readings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the youth room. Dinner included!

Registration for the Fall Retreat "Chaos" is open! Saturday, Nov. 10-11 at Camp Hargis. More details at olsyouth.com/retreat.

Sat. Oct. 27: "Eucharistic Youth Congress." All 8-12th graders are encouraged to attend this Day Retreat focused on the Eucharist. We will meet at 8 a.m. to caravan to Hanceville. Please RSVP at youthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com.

Edge Middle School

Sun. Oct. 7: "Triumphant." Join us as we will come to understand Jesus' triumph through His Resurrection and Ascension and how these two events changed the course of human history and our lives. Meet from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Assembly Hall.

Wed. Oct. 10: Blaze Bible Study for 7-8th grade girls, "Discovering My Purpose," continues. If you are interested, it's not too late to join us! Please email Carol at mseyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com. Meet in the FLC Library from 7-8:30 p.m. Pizza will be served!