



Our Lady of Sorrows Church
July 7, 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Roger McLaughlin, in past years, was consistently walking with his cane, participating in the 6:30 a.m. daily Mass. He was a Notre Dame graduate, a marine officer, and in my book, the champion of the OLS School Foundation. He was a "fighter" (Marine) against the forces of evil. He was deeply into Catholic education (Notre Dame Grad and married to a nurse who studied at St. Mary's, which is next to Notre Dame). I remember him as a member of the school board when I became pastor in 1988. When I was made pastor 30 years ago the school could not pay the teachers' salaries for the summer. Someone told me that if I did not have a "foundation", we would not have a school in 10 years.

Roger had a great job with the telephone company, but he used his smarts to start an investing company. Over the course of 28 years, the parish and others donated \$10 million to the Foundation, and Roger made another \$12 million. The School has been drawing from the Foundation for the past 8 years so we could control the rising cost of tuition. That's right, I am determined never to raise the tuition, and yet the teachers' salaries are raised a bit each year. Several people told me that, during that great recession not too long ago, they lost about half of their investments, but Roger, with the Foundation, sailed "steady as she goes" through rough waters to keep the progress going.

Roger had a great wit. He and I held the purse strings of the Foundation and we wanted it to grow. Our principal had to ask two or three times for money, and on one occasion, when Mrs. Dorn drove me back from the doctor, before I could get out of the car, she stopped me and asked for \$15,000.00 from the Foundation. I told her I

would talk to Roger. When I did, Roger jokingly quipped, "Father, the next time you need a ride to the doctor, I'll take you." We will name the school gym the Roger McLaughlin Gym and place a nice picture of Roger in the School Atrium.

The Lord's continual blessing is with this parish through Eucharistic Adoration, and in filling the shoes of Roger when the Lord took him to heaven, we were blessed with another great investing talent, Joel Barlow. He has already taken the Foundation up another million to \$23 million.

OLS School is at an all-time high with Mrs. Dorn, Principal for the past 16 years, and this week the news broke that OLS School was voted the most popular school by parents in the Birmingham area. CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Dorn and the faculty!!!

Raising children today is, I believe, more difficult than ever, and we all know the reasons why. It is the Church's (our) responsibility to help in every possible way. The atmosphere and learning is so very Christ-centered at OLS School. It is called "grace," God's extra help. There are presently a couple empty places in the 3rd and 4th grades and kindergarten. If you are, as a parent, "on the fence" with the decision, know that the sacrifices are an enormous investment in raising children with the best opportunities for the most important thing in life, a relationship with God.

The school building, renovated by the Bruno family, belongs to the PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION on Sundays. What is spent to maintain the building is for the PSR, and the existence of the Catholic school is so important, for it keeps the bar raised as the administration and Catechists try to keep up with the high standards of religious education at OLS School. A million thanks to parents, grandparents and others who donate to the school in any way. I thank, also, Mrs. Corso and the Catechists of the PSR.

The 4th of July Festival was bigger than ever. How do I know, since this is written before the fact? Success of anything depends on the amount and zeal of preparation. Actually, more work goes into the preparation than on the day itself. For weeks the Knights have been picking up donated furniture, as people (some 40 families) invited the Knights to pick up large donations of furniture. The Trash and Treasure in the gym also reports enormous amounts of donations. For five days, the barbeque pit has been fired up at "full speed" ahead, cooking 4 tons of meat. One of our Knights was asked how the Knights put on the greatest festival in town on the 4th, and his response was, "You should have started 70 years ago.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

P.S. This is the quote from the Birmingham Parents Magazine's Favorites Award Winners:

The favorite private school winner is Our Lady of Sorrows. Highly accredited, the school takes pride in educating with a partnership of academic curriculum with developing one's faith. It provides a variety of enrichments and technology opportunities for students, as well as competitive sports for those who are interested.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Many people are weary and find life burdensome. Could God be calling you to bring comfort, encouragement and refreshment to other? Trust that Jesus can work through you. You can make a difference. (Matthew 11:25-30)
For ministers of care, may they find strength in Jesus as they seek to serve others.



Mass Intentions

Monday, July 8	Rev. Camillus Blazak Nula McNamara Gina Fontana
Tuesday, July 9	Rev. Camillus Blazak Mary Ann Dennis Deceased of OLS
Wednesday, July 10	Msgr. Eugene O'Connor Cenobia Castro Deceased of OLS
Thursday, July 11	Special Intention Lena Carruba Diane C. Fontana
Friday, July 12	Special Intention Catherine Taylor Claude Dirgo
Saturday, July 13	Donors to OLS School Foundation Josephine Sicola James Joseph Fox, Jr.
Sunday, July 14	People of the Parish Alfonso Castro Deceased of OLS



Vita D'Amico, Mary Ann Huie,
Charlie Kai Wadsworth,
Melanie Gilchrist, Kennie
Skellie,

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

- Wednesday at 6 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Wednesday at 9 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Thursday 12 Midnight (New Vacancy)**
- Thursday at 7 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Friday at 1 PM (Share with Partner)**
- Saturday at 11 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Sunday at 2 PM (Share 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.

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

Check out olsyouth.com for our summer schedules!

Life Teen High School

July 8-13: We have 35 teens and 5 chaperones at Camp Covecrest for this entire week. Please keep our group in your prayers as they encounter Christ in the sacraments and the beautiful outdoors! This is always a very transformative trip for our youth.

Wednesday, July 17: Come play Broomball at the Pelham Ice Skating Rink from **6:30 – 9 p.m.!** Be sure to wear jeans or long pants and tennis shoes. Meet at the entrance of the ice rink at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to ride with OLS, meet outside of the FLC at 6 p.m. Please bring \$10!

Edge Middle School

July 15 - 20: We have 38 teens and 7 chaperones at Camp Hidden Lake for this entire week. Please keep our group in your prayers!

Elementary Children's Ministry

Wednesday, July 24: "Drive-In" Movie Night in the Parish Hall! Wear your pajamas and bring a blanket/pillow for the floor. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and show time at 6:15 p.m. *Movie TBD.*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Rediscover the one you love on a get away from jobs, children, chores and phones...and focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you will like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can make! The next weekend in the diocese is scheduled in Huntsville on July 19-21, at the Doubletree Hotel South. To register online go to www.ALFL-wwme.org or call Barney & Kathy Bellard at 205-530-3607.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Birmingham 19th Annual Conference on July 26 and 27

The 19th Annual CCROB Conference will be held on July 26 and July 27, in the Family Life Center. The conference theme is "**In the Name of Jesus.**" The speakers will be: Peter Herbeck and Johnette Benkovic Williams, along with Mass celebrants, Father Paul Asih and Father James Hedderman. The registration fee for individuals is \$20 and \$50 for a family of three or more. Register online at www.catholiccharismaticrenewal.org or mail registration to: CCROB, 1164 Victoria Dr., McCalla, AL 35111. For further information contact Ray Makofsky at 205-999-8947.

Theology on Tap: If you are between the ages of 21 and 35, please join us for Theology on Tap at Brennan's Irish Pub on July 16! We will gather at 6:30 p.m. and our speakers will begin at 7. Br. Paschal and Br. Marion, both of St. Bernard's Monastery, will speak on Benedictine spirituality and monastic life. Please join us for another great night of fun and fellowship!



OLS School is collecting Boxtops to help support school improvements and programs. Please clip and send your Boxtops to Boxtop Coordinator at 414 Kenilworth Drive, Homewood 35209. Thank you!