



## *Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

July 19, 2020

*From the Pastor's Desk*

My Dear People:

Within a week's time, I lost three of my very best friends on this earth into the bliss of heaven:

My sister Genie (2 years younger), whom I saw in Mobile for the last time as I was on my way to Pensacola for my older sister's funeral. I considered her the saint of our family. After two years at Sacred Heart in Cullman, she entered the Benedictines and was well educated at Georgetown, the Sorbonne in Paris, and Freiburg in France for a year. She educated others at the Catholic elementary school in Cullman (the present Abbott was one of her students). Genie taught in Pensacola, Decatur, and at John Carroll (we overlapped assignments in my first year of teaching at Carroll). Lynn Stella and David Putman were some of her favorites at John Carroll.

After 18 years in the convent, Genie was dispensed from her vows due to a physical condition. She eventually married an old friend of mine and helped raise his four children, one of whom ended up being her main caregiver in her later months of suffering the results of two strokes. God blessed her with an unusually good caregiver. Genie was always a great friend down through the years.

Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb, whose health failed him a couple years ago, was my closest priest friend. We knew each other for over 70 years and met in the same classes at McGill in Mobile. We were in the same "vocation club" together. He was the chairman on different bishop's committees and, also, served on several papal committees. Oscar served as the Archbishop of the Mobile Archdiocese for over 25 years. Whenever he came to Birmingham for various celebrations, he stayed here with me at OLS. The last time

I saw him was, again, on my way to my older sister's funeral in Pensacola. He claimed I was a better friend to him than he was to me. The opposite was true. He was actually responsible for my coming to OLS in residence in 1965. Now that's a friend!

Mary Clair Brouillette, one of the great saints of our parish, and I have been friends for 30 years. Over 27 years ago she and Ida Wilker came to me and asked if we could have Perpetual Adoration. I loved the idea and said they would have to have the committed adorers and then we would start. The fact is, if I had not said "yes," they would have prayed me transferred, in a nursing home, or dead. One of the smartest moves I ever made was to say "yes" to Perpetual Adoration. I pray to God we can start the 24/7 schedule again, with limiting only five in the Chapel at a time, and with the door locked from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Only the committed ones will have the key (I know so many others have the keypad, but the "key" overrules the keypad).

Mary Claire's life centered around the Chapel. She was there daily and started the Divine Mercy hour at 3 a.m. on Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter. She started it 20 years ago at OLS, along with Mr. Cyril DiChiara. After Mr. DiChiara died, she kept it going. She and Ann Bruno worked on the Christmas and Easter decorations team with John Tombrello, which decorations have become the talk of the city.

Mary Claire had the gift of prayer and loved the Lord so dearly and prayed for almost the whole world. She would not let anyone know of her sufferings, especially great sufferings, which she offered to the Lord the last year and a half of her life. Her daughters respected her demands and would not tell anyone until last Sunday morning, when I received a call that Mary Claire had entered the gates of heaven. I told Fr. Balta if she did not go straight to heaven, he was going to purgatory and I was going with him. Mary Claire used to say, along with Ann Bruno, "If there is anything good I have done, don't mention it on earth. If there is any credit, I

would prefer it in the next world.” She used to tell me that I was to outlive her so that I could offer her funeral Mass, and I used to tell her the way she kept such a youthful appearance, she would outlive me. We were the same age. How often life keeps repeating the words of Jesus: We do not know the day nor the hour with all of our guesswork and plans. We all remember those great and many smiles of Mary Claire. If we could only see those even far greater smiles as she entered heaven.

So many thanks for prayers for my eye surgery. Cataract surgery is a “piece of cake” compared to this dangerous, but wonderful, operation to stop, dead still, “Glaucoma.” Though the surgeon has declared his work a success, recovery from this operation will go on for three or four more weeks (next visit to the surgeon is August 10).

Dr. Fauci, Director of Infectious Diseases for the country, says the vaccine will be here the first of the year, or, at the latest, in a year and a half. Until then, the Governor has just mandated the wearing of masks for the whole state. Wear the mask; keep the distance; and wash hands until all are vaccinated.

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller



Vita D’Amico, Mary Ann Huie,  
Charlie Kai Wadsworth,  
Kennie Skellie, Buddy  
DiChiara, Alan Pizzitola,  
Stephanie Murdock, Edward  
Thornton, John Coleman, Tim Carlisle, Tom  
James, Martha Masucci, Debbie White, Ann  
LaRussa, Mike Skellie, Lillie Higgins, Harriet  
Dupree, Claudia Tombrello, Mary Jane Noto



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Monday, July 20    | Special Intention<br>Randal Dixon<br>Milazzo/Brooklere Families       |
| Tuesday, July 21   | Special Intention<br>Danny Water<br>Mike Fleming                      |
| Wednesday, July 22 | Special Intention<br>J. Trotman<br>Charles “Butch” Baldone            |
| Thursday, July 23  | Special Intention<br>Nilda Rosa Alsip<br>Pat Salamone                 |
| Friday, July 24    | Special Intention<br>Nilda Rosa Alsip<br>Betty Bishop                 |
| Saturday, July 25  | Donors to OLS School Foundation<br>Nilda Rosa Alsip<br>Louis DiChiara |
| Sunday, July 26    | People of the Parish<br>Mary Laurie Bracken<br>Jude Tombrello         |

### **Food for Our Journey update:**

"We are serving almost 700 meals a day, seven days a week. The OLS food drive every Wednesday is vital to our ability to serve the homeless and food insecure in our community. We are handing out close to 700 bottles of water a day, so we really need water. Also, we are getting constant requests for socks and masks. If you have clean, gently used or new socks, we need them. If anyone has access to masks of any kind, we would love to have them. We thank all of you who have donated so far and look forward to seeing all of you who can donate every Wednesday (drop offs accepted from 9 -10:30 a.m.) in the parish parking lot."

Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director

## ***What's Going on in Youth Ministry?***

### **Life Teen High School**

Rising freshman, you are invited to all events with high school! Make sure to get on the email list and follow @olsyouth on Instagram for details!

**Community Nights:** Join us every Thursday in Homewood Park from 6-7:30 p.m. for dinner, games, and discussion. Hand sanitizer will be provided, and social distancing is necessary.

### **Edge Middle School**

**Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>:** Meet us at Patriot Park at **3 p.m.** located at [710 Oak Grove Rd](#), West Homewood for Summer Kick-Off! Join us for our rescheduled event, "Haha," and Edge Night on Humor! Please wear a mask and follow social distancing. Email [msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com](mailto:msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com) to let us know you are coming! Consider bringing a gift of baby wipes and/or diapers for our expecting Core member, Casey!

**Monday-Thursday:** Join us for "Catch Up with Carol" at 4 p.m. on our Instagram @olsedge for a daily dose of truth, beauty, and goodness! Don't miss Part 2 of our discussion on race and racism!



### **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Good and evil exist together in the world. Pray that good may grow and take root in you like a mustard seed that, when full-grown, is the largest of plants. What are you doing to nurture good in our world? (Matthew 13:24-43)

For the global community, that together we may participate in the building of a holy and just society.

## ***A Night of Mercy***

On Thursday, July 30, from 6 - 9 p.m. ARISE Worship Ministry Birmingham and Catholify will co-sponsor a virtual, live-streamed event: A Night of Mercy.

It's EASY and FREE to participate. Just register at [mercynight.com](http://mercynight.com).

We will gather with people from all around the world, in our churches and in our homes, to pray, proclaim, adore and plead for Christ's abundant mercy upon us. Let us unite in a moment of worldwide adoration as we repent of our sins and turn back to Him with our whole hearts!

We will have Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy proclaim the basics of the message of Divine Mercy and how it relates to the times in which we are living. Jonathan Roumie, the actor who portrays Jesus in the critically acclaimed TV series, 'The Chosen', will share personal testimony of the power of mercy in his own life.

We will then move into a time of Eucharistic adoration, praying before the source of Mercy Himself. Music ministry will be led by composer and recording artist Danielle Rose. We will recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet together and close the night with benediction.