



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

April 18, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

The following is an open letter to Bishop Spencer, who was so kind to preside over the confirmation of 28 of our 8th Graders from Our Lady of Sorrows School.

Dear Bishop Spencer,

I can't thank you enough for the Bishop Spencer experience. You are outstandingly humble; a replica of Christ, and your middle name has got to be "Service." Thank you so much for confirming 28 of our 8th Grade students from OLS School on April 6.

You dropped your bomb of spiritual grace and quickly headed home, preparing for another target.

You are so humble about your 34 years of combat duty, that with a world of experience you could have kept our attention for another two hours. Would you be available for a priest's retreat? The priest in charge is from OLS Parish and used to be my associate. You could simply share more of your life of service, for God and country, keep us attentive, and rejuvenate our vocation of priestly service to our God and His people.

Our Bishop Raica did us a great favor by asking you to instruct and confirm our 8th Grade Class from the parish school. The pandemic and the "social distancing" forced us to split the full confirmation class into two sections. The other section is in the Parish School of Religion.

In your humility, which all of us so enjoyed, you did not use what must be an endless list of "combat experiences," while being a chaplain ministering in war zones. Nobody would guess that you have a license plate on

which is labeled: "Disabled Veteran." You look so healthy and dynamic. Once again, the parents, sponsors, and Confirmandi just loved your great ministry to them.

I forgot to ask you what an Oakleaf Cluster means in the military usage of the term. Your bio states you have a total of 9, plus the Iraq combat medals and Korean service medal. If you wore all your medals of foreign wars and honors as a Colonel, you would be weighed down with honors.

You must have had great parental examples of service. They started you off with your getting the Eagle Scout status in your youth, and they produced two bishops, who were chaplains for endless years. And I am sure your sister and other brothers were molded the same way.

Most people don't know that the Catholic Church has created "military dioceses." Just as Birmingham is a diocese in itself, so, too, in the military you automatically belong to the military diocese. In our country you have 1.8 million souls, one archbishop, and only four auxiliary bishops, and you travel the whole Eastern part of our country. As Ernie Pyle, war correspondent during the 2nd World War, said, "There are no atheists in fox holes." What a SERVICE to spiritually help those who face death for the sake of freedom for ourselves and others. As they say, Freedom is not "free."

We salute you, Colonel, and beg your Episcopal blessing on those you confirmed and on our whole parish.

Most gratefully yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Martin Muller

First Friday Devotions are held on the first Friday of every month at 6 a.m.

First Saturday Devotions are held on the first Saturday of every month at 7:15 a.m.

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, May 23, the Solemnity of Pentecost. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.



Skellie

Stephanie Murdock, Carmela Yeakle, Mary Jane Noto, Ronnie Williams, Carolyn Wright, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny



Monday, April 19	Special Intention Sp. Int. Carolyn Romano Lillie Rumore
Tuesday, April 20	Special Intention Sp. Int. Claudia Tombrello Lillie Rumore
Wednesday, April 21	Special Intention Sp. Int. Fredia Lewis & family Eldridge George Benson Robertson
Thursday, April 22	Special Intention Sp. Int. Neha Shah & family Gary Lane Busenlehner
Friday, April 23	Special Intention Rev. Charles Cross Otto L. Fox, Jr.
Saturday, April 24	Donors to OLS School Foundation Sp. Int. Michele Eason & family Shirley Shewchuk
Sunday, April 25	People of Parish Sp. Int. Carmelo & Janice Renda Otto L. Fox, Jr.

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

- Tuesday at 1 PM (Not Filled)**
- Tuesday at 2 PM (Share with Partner)**
- Wednesday at 7 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Saturday at 4 AM (Not Filled)**
- Saturday at 11 PM (Share with Partner)**
- Sunday at 11 AM (Not Filled)**
- Sunday at 12 PM (Not Filled)**

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 Bo Lovell at 205-965-3041 or email us at olschapel@gmail.com.

The St. Joseph Altar Committee would like to thank Fr. Muller for allowing us to have a drive by altar this year and to all who visited. In spite of Covid, we were still able to have a wonderful celebration of this feast day. The altar was on display for a week in the FLC, which gave visitors several opportunities to come by. All food donations and gifts of thanksgiving were given to the Catholic Center of Concern. Sister Zelia sends her thanks for these blessings. The petitions have been placed in the Chapel where St. Joseph can read them every day.

**Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center
17th Annual GOLF FORE LIFE
Friday, May 14,
Highland Park Golf Course
Lunch at 12 p.m.
SHOTGUN START at 1 p.m.**

Have fun, save lives, and raise funds for Her Choice, the only pro-life pregnancy resource center located in the heart of Birmingham. The cost is \$250 (\$125 tax deductible) per individual golfer. We need 18 people to organize a foursome to make this year's fundraiser the most successful ever. Individual golfers are welcome and will be paired up. We are also asking individuals, families, and companies to be Hole Sponsors, \$500, or half Hole Sponsors, \$250. Please support this event and contact Her Choice at 205-447-8796 or go to golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org.

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

Please consider signing up to provide dinner or serve as a Prayer Warrior during Youth Group! We need you! Go to olsyouth.com to pick a night that fits your schedule.

LifeTeen High School

Sunday, April 18: Continuing our series "Keeping It Together and Other Lies We Tell Ourselves: A Life Night Series on Gen Z Issues." Come grow in faith and enjoy time together with your peers! We will continue to focus on the struggles we are facing and how to overcome them.

Wednesday April 21: Co-ed "Unleashed" small group discussion and a provided meal at 7 p.m. in the youth room! This is wrapping up our series on mental health. All high schoolers welcome!

EDGE Middle School

Sunday, April 18: Join us for "Restoration," an Edge Night to explore how a good God can exist in a world of suffering. Dinner starts at 7 p.m.; pickup at 8:30 pm. Please continue to wear masks!

Food for Our Journey Update:

Due to the generosity of so many, we no longer have a need for socks or winter accessories. We continue to have a strong need for sandwiches, snacks, and fruit. As the temperature rises, we will push for more water, but as of now we have a good stockpile. Thank you so much! Donations can be dropped off in the parish parking lot every Wednesday from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

To the priests and people of the Diocese of Birmingham,

It gives me great joy to inform you that we have surpassed our target goal for the Catholic Charities Appeal for 2021! Especially during these trying and uncertain days, so many donors stepped up to meet this year's challenge. As a result, parishes and faithful throughout the Diocese of Birmingham can continue to be served by a broad range of services and ministries. This good news is so edifying for me personally since this is my first campaign for Catholic Charities as your bishop.

In particular, I thank Fr. Richard Donohoe, who served as the Vicar for Catholic Charities. His tenacity and insights have provided for a sound foundation for the appeal as we go forward. Thank you, Fr. Donohoe, for your positive optimism about the generosity of so many donors throughout our diocese. This year's theme, "In Christ there are always new beginnings" has shown itself to be true. In the wake of the pandemic, new beginnings are emerging everywhere. Even today, nature itself offers a beautiful reflection on this theme. Winter gives way to spring and nature, which did not know of the pandemic, is springing back to abundant life all around. It is a reminder that life goes on, and in the end, life wins. Indeed, in Christ, life wins over and over again.

To the many donors and benefactors of Catholic Charities: Thank You!! We have made this campaign possible because of your generosity and belief in the dynamic and bold mission of Christ here in central and northern Alabama.

Christ is our foundation and goal in all we do. Again, and again, "thank you!"

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama