

Easter Time continues!

I hope you are still feeling the joy and newness of life that is so much a part of the fifty days of Easter Time. Our Sunday liturgies continue to present to us the preaching of the early Church; in this week's first reading for the Mass of the Third Sunday of Easter, from the Acts of the Apostles, we again hear powerful preaching and witness from Peter. The second reading continues to teach us about the implications of what it means to be baptized. In the Gospel reading we hear St. Luke's account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, one of my personal favorites (and it will be the Gospel reading at my Funeral Mass...but not anytime soon, I hope!). These Easter Time Scriptures are so rich and so inspiring! Take some time to savor this week's Mass readings, and look for the signs of God's presence in your life this week. *Alleluia! He is risen! The Lord is truly risen!*

Two New Saints

Last Sunday saw the extraordinary event of two Popes being canonized: Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were declared to be Saints by Pope Francis. What an extraordinary gift this is to the Church! They are Popes of our lifetime, and each in his own way has shaped the Church many of us grew up in and the Church which all of us live in today. While of course it's impossible to sum up the contributions of these two great Popes in the space of a few brief lines in this column, I would offer a couple of brief thoughts. First, ponder how both Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were not afraid to have the Church interact with the modern world: Pope John convened the Second Vatican Council not to change doctrine, but to update the way the Church presented her doctrine and existed in the modern world; Pope John Paul II, through his many travels and throughout his long pontificate, brought the teachings of the Council to the whole world.

Second, I offer to you these remarks offered by Pope Francis, taken from his homily at the ceremony for their canonization; I think these remarks sum up well why these two Popes are so important: "They were priests, bishops and popes of the twentieth century. They lived through the tragic events of that century, but

they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful; faith was more powerful — faith in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history; the mercy of God, shown by those five wounds, was more powerful; and more powerful too was the closeness of Mary our Mother. In these two men, who looked upon the wounds of Christ and bore witness to his mercy, there dwelt a living hope and an indescribable and glorious joy — the hope and the joy which the risen Christ bestows on his disciples, the hope and the joy which nothing and no one can take from them, the hope and joy of Easter, forged in the crucible of self-denial, self-emptying, utter identification with sinners, even to the point of disgust at the bitterness of that chalice. Such were the hope and the joy which these two holy popes had received as a gift from the risen Lord and which they in turn bestowed in abundance upon the People of God, meriting our eternal gratitude."

Parish Wedding Anniversaries Mass

Attention all couples who are celebrating a wedding anniversary "on a five" in 2014 — those married 5, 10, 15, 20, *etc.*, years, and every year over 50! I hope you have seen the ad we have been running in the bulletin inviting you to our Parish Wedding Anniversaries Mass. It's our way of celebrating your Sacrament of Marriage and supporting your vocation. On May 16 we'll celebrate Mass and throw a nice little party for you. Last year's event was a great success and I'm sure this year's will be too. This year we've added a new wrinkle: we've also invited all the couples who have been married at OLPH in the past year to join in this celebration. We hope that these couples will be inspired and encouraged by seeing so many other couples celebrating their anniversaries.

If you and your spouse are celebrating an anniversary "on a five" in 2014, please be sure to see the ad and response form elsewhere in this bulletin and be sure to RSVP that you will be joining us. We want to celebrate with you!

Meeting for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

So that our liturgical ministers might continue to grow in their spiritual and liturgical formation, we hold meetings for all liturgical ministers on a regular basis. These meetings are not considered optional, but are considered to be a regular commitment as part of their ministry, in the same way as their Mass assignments.

Meetings for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are coming up soon, on Tuesday May 13, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the church (ministers are to choose one to attend). Letters of invitation have been sent, and we look forward to seeing all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at one of these meetings.

New CYO President

As you are aware, CYO is an important part of the life of OLPH parish. So many great sports programs are provided through our parish's CYO, and it is considered to be one of the programs for young people which falls under the Youth Ministry umbrella. We are very grateful for all those who offer their time and their service to make CYO such a success in the parish.

Obviously, such a massive undertaking can only be done under the leadership of a very capable head, the CYO President. For many years, Phil Amico has done an extraordinary job of leading the program and I am extremely grateful to him for all he has done. He recently expressed that he felt it was time for him to step down, and, given the amount of work and time that is involved in being CYO President, that is certainly understandable. **Thank you, Phil**, for the great, great work you have done for so many years, and for the huge contribution you have made to the life of OLPH Parish. I know that everyone involved in CYO at OLPH feels the same way.

At this time I am happy to welcome Dave Reid, who will be taking over for Phil, as the new CYO President. I look forward, as Pastor, to working closely with Dave so that CYO continues to be an integral part of the life of OLPH.

Mother's Day Novena of Masses

Once again we will be having a Novena of Masses for Mother's Day. This is a beautiful

way to remember and pray for your mother, living or deceased. Please look for the Mother's Day cards and envelopes around the church. Your intention will be remembered in the Mother's Day Novena of Masses.

In conclusion...

Together, let's aim high in Christ. Together, let's bring out the best in each other. Together, let's be the best we can be in Christ.

And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,