

July 29, 2018

**Nine Days without Food and Little Hope of Survival!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For 18 days the eyes of the whole world were fixed on 12 boys and their young coach. On June 23 they entered Tham Luang caves near Chiang Rai in Northern Thailand and got trapped as the heavy monsoon rains blocked their way out. In our age of instant information, we have become accustomed to frequent *Breaking News*. Most of the time they relate to violent tragedies. I, for one, do not watch television and am not following any social media. However, I do read newspapers and keep informed on major events. I am confident that most of you had an opportunity to follow the drama of the 12 Thai boys and their coach entrapped deep in a flooded cave. There were key moments:

1. July 2nd, a rescue team discovers the boys and Coach Ekapol. They had been without food and with little hope of survival for a total of nine days! Thanks to their coach's leadership, they survived those nine days of total isolation from the world and no food at all: (i) he gave them a sense of purpose (and hope) by having them dig a tunnel in the rock, (ii) he had them drink water coming down from the cave stalactites, and (iii) as a former novice monk, he taught them meditation.
2. On July 8, despite many difficulties such as rising waters, four of the boys were rescued.
3. By July 10, the remaining boys and their coach were rescued just in time before the heavy monsoon rains came.

I invite everyone to reflect on this amazing rescue & recovery operation from a Christian perspective. Imagine for a moment that you are trapped in a cold, humid, dark place where there is no food and no hope to get out of it. You are not alone. You are with 12 other people and they are facing the same impossible situation as you. Yet one of them has much more wisdom than anyone else. He is your coach. Would you listen to him? He is the only one who can give you a sense of purpose in your current difficulties. You feel like a child without any power, totally dependent on your coach. He is

the only one who can teach you how to meditate and pray, and find some peace. Here's the teaching parable out of this story: Jesus is your coach, your teacher in whom you trust totally. You are one of his first 12 disciples. You are hungry for a spiritual relationship with God and

you need stronger **faith and hope** so as to become more aware of God's Love in your life and accept your daily crosses on your journey toward eternal happiness.

In my nine years as priest, I have encountered only a few people, thanks be to God, who have become hopeless to the point of considering suicide as their only option. All of us, including myself, have faced a series of setbacks that may include our health, or overwhelmed by difficulties at work (with their bosses or co-workers), or strife in their families (constant battles with their spouses, or children).

*faith  
OVER  
fear*

Such a sense of hopelessness may have led many people to follow Jesus so as to be healed physically, emotionally or spiritually. In today's Gospel (John 6:1-15), "*A large crowd followed Jesus because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.*" This led Jesus to have pity on them as they were **hungry**, and it gave **him** the opportunity for his greatest **miracle: the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish.** This is the **Eucharistic miracle** feeding over 5,000 people: "*Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining,...*" Not only was everyone fed, but the disciples collected leftovers filling 12 wicker baskets.



When we are hungry, Jesus is always there to feed us. When we are afraid, Jesus gives us calm and peace. As I was facing health issues these last two months, I was hungry to return to our parish. I was impatient. But I did find peace while adoring Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament and receiving His Body and Blood in the Holy Communion at daily Mass. I also found it helpful to read quotes from great Saints. One of my favorite ones is from the great Mystic, Saint Teresa of Avila:

**"Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away:  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things,  
Whoever has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices."**

Next time you feel trapped in an impossible situation, I invite you to think about the story of the 12 Thai children and their coach, and to repeat the above encouraging words of St. Teresa of Avila: Let nothing disturb you...God alone suffices."

May God's greatest, daily gift to us, the Eucharist, give us peace!

**One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain**



**Prayer Requests \***

**We are asked to pray for:** Maria Mora, Nadia Toledo, Cielo Quintero, Zynae Green, Green Family, Anthony Rodriguez, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, David Parady, Linda Bourne, Rebecca "Tess" Franch, Alex León, Connie Miller, Wanda Roberts, Fr. Kleinstuber, Wilbur Etbauer, Antonio Marin, Georgiana Norgren, Scott Anderson, Harold Frye, Patricia Fisher, Marjorie O'Donnel, Sarah Parker, Leslie Heath, Miriam Chagolla, Lauren Lohman, Grace Emmanuella, Dennis Forgash, Robert Brooks, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

*\*Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*

# Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Over 95 kids enjoyed “Surfin’ with the Holy Spirit” this summer. Continue that spiritual growth of the Catholic faith in your children - Sign them up for the 2018-19 CCD Religious Education Program on-line at [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org) Classes begin August 16



For more information send an email to [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Therese, Director of Religious Education

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FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team  
Edge: Middle school youth ministry  
Life Teen: High school youth ministry

For most current Youth and Evangelization events, please see our website; [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org).

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### Our Younger Generation and the Catholic Faith

**Attention: Adults ages 18 - 102 yrs.** Concerned about the younger generation walking away from the faith? We are launching a new Confirmation initiative this year for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and need your help. Come *make a difference* and be an adult mentor to walk with these young people. Pray about your involvement and willingness to share with the next generation. It can only strengthen your personal faith journey while enriching another.



Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Therese Thiedeman, at [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org) or 301-645-7112, with any questions you may have and becoming VIRTUS-compliant (Child Protection Classes and background check). Thank you!

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### RCIA Invitation – Registration Open House



Interested in learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Wanting to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? Or, wishing to learn more about your Catholic faith? This is the group for you!

We invite you to meet RCIA team members at the **Registration Open House for 2018-2019 RCIA classes, Wednesday, August 29 at 7:00 to 8:30 PM** in the social hall. Classes start in September and will be held on Wednesdays 7:15-9:00 PM.

### OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

2018 Summer Program for ages 3-5 (**must be potty-trained**) The cost is \$75 per week. Discount for multiple siblings or multiple weeks.

- July 30-August 3, 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Science/Nature

Registration is first come/first served, and will continue until one week before each session starts or until classes are full.

For more information OR for Fall Preschool registration, send an email to [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

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### Community Outreach

Our July Shepherd’s Table was a fun & delicious grilled dinner for 60 people! Many thanks to Marlen Cole and OLHOC Youth Group who planned, prepared and served the meal. Special thanks to Norris Hanes for doing all the grilling! The next Shepherd’s Table Dinner is scheduled for **Thursday, August 16, at Good Shepherd Church.**



**Sharing Sunday** – Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

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### **Upcoming Child Protection Workshop in Southern MD:**

**Monday, August 20  
6:00 pm-9:00 pm**



Archbishop Neale School

104 Port Tobacco Road  
La Plata, MD 20646

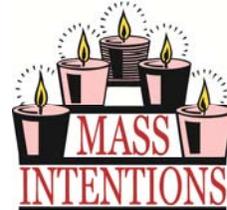
Register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

**Mass Intentions this Week**

Saturday, July 28, 9:00 AM: Fr. Gill  
Saturday, July 28, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners  
Sunday, July 29, 8:30 AM: Fr. JeanClaude Atusameso  
Sunday, July 29, 10:00 AM: Fr. Kleinstuber  
Sunday, July 29, 11:30 AM: Joan Powers (+)  
Sunday, July 29, 1:00 PM: Fifi Roseme  
Monday, July 30, 9:00 AM: Anthony Rodriguez  
Tuesday, July 31, 9:00 AM: Fr. Conley  
Wednesday, August 01, 9:00 AM: Ramón Lam (+)  
Wednesday, August 01, 7:00 PM: Fr. Russo  
Thursday, August 02, 9:00 AM: Deborah Storey  
Friday, August 03, 9:00 AM: Fr. Jaime Hernandez  
Friday, August 03, 8:00 PM: Msgr. Oliver McGready

Pope Francis asks Catholics to pray for all priests in July: CRUXnow.com

OLHOC is grateful to all the priests that have presided Mass for us this summer.



**Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Working on the Margins**

Next week, our second collection will be for the Catholic Campaign for Human development. In the United States, one in seven people lives in poverty. Please be generous in this effort to support programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities.



Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human development at [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection).

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The Divine Mercy Ministry invites us all to come and pray the chaplet each 1st Saturday at 3:00 PM.

**August 4th**

**Basic Evangelization Workshop**

**Saturday, August 4  
9:00 to 3:00**

**Sacred Heart Parish  
in La Plata**



This workshop will be led by Adam Janke from Saint Paul Street Evangelization (SPSE). SPSE has over 300 evangelization teams across the country, including Montgomery County, MD, and specializes in training lay faithful and clergy in learning how to introduce others to Jesus Christ in a non-confrontational, joyful way.

The workshop will begin with Mass at 9:00 AM followed by the workshop in the Friendship Room located downstairs. Food and beverages will be provided. The workshop will conclude no later than 3:00 PM. There is no charge for this workshop but you must sign-up. Go to Sacred Heart website: [www.sacredheartlaplata.org](http://www.sacredheartlaplata.org)

**Your Church; the Lord's House**

Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and refrain from taking any food or beverage in the Church. If children need food or beverages, please use the cry room or Social Hall.



We have incurred some recent pew damage. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as a foot rest.

**Mass Readings for August 5, 2018**

*18th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

**\*First Reading**

*Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15*

**\*Second Reading**

*Ephesians 4:17, 20-24*

**\*Gospel**

*John 6:24-35*



[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

# THE WILD GOOSE

## DISCOVERING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join us this Sunday/Monday for an incredible video series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. Discover the Holy Spirit who has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ and who leads us to our heavenly Father. This adventure consists of Fr. Dave speaking on an attribute of the Holy Spirit, a practical application on how to respond to the Holy Spirit and testimonies of people from across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit of God. **Babysitting will be provided on Monday evenings.**

### We'll watch and discuss 2 video segments at each of our gatherings

- SUNDAY mornings in Rooms 103/104 (9:30 am) with Mike and Diane Spurgeon
- MONDAY nights in Rooms 103/104 (7 pm) with Deacon Rich and Carl Phipps
- MONDAY nights in Rooms 201/202 (7 pm) in Spanish with Milton Galván and Maria Lam
- MONDAY nights in Rooms 203/204 (7 pm) for EDGE and LIFETEEN (grades 6-12) with Marlen Coles and Youth Core Teams.

### MEETINGS with TWO SEGMENTS per MEETING

- July 29/30: (5) Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (6) The Spirit and the Eucharist
- August 5/6: (7) The Spirit of Adoption, (8) The Spirit and the Sacraments
- August 12/13: (9) Fruits of the Holy Spirit, (10) The Spirit and the Desert
- August 19/20: (11) The Spirit Convicts, (12) The Spirit's Freedom
- August 26/27: (13) The Spirit Gives Witness, (14) The Spirit Remembers

For more information, contact Therese Thiedeman at 301-645-7112, [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org)



Registration for Religious Education - CCD 2018 - 19 is open on-line:

[www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org)

### St. Andrew School of Evangelization Retreat in Spanish

Retiro en español - La Escuela de Evangelización San Andrés le invita a un **encuentro con Jesús Resucitado!**

Sábado & Domingo, 4 & 5 de agosto, de las 8:30 am - 7:00 pm en esta parroquia, Nuestra Señora María Auxiliadora - OLHOC



Incluye sus alimentos - Cada participante \$30.00 donación. Para más información, favor de llamar al (703) 675-2066 ó (703) 932-9681. [essasnjuanevangelista@gmail.com](mailto:essasnjuanevangelista@gmail.com)

### *Friday Faith and Fellowship Group*



*Join the group every 2nd Friday of the month for Movie Night, and for bible study and music each 3rd, 4th, and occasional 5th Friday.*

**7:00 PM**