

VICTORY VOICES

OUR LADY OF VICTORY PARISH NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #11, FALL 2016 (NOVEMBER 2016)

THE ALPHA PROGRAM — A GREAT SUCCESS AT OLV

Is there
more to
life than this



The ALPHA Program is an opportunity to explore the core questions of our Christian faith in a friendly and informal

environment. This Fall OLV parishioners discovered the program could indeed increase understanding of their faith, prompt them to think of ways to bring their faith into their daily lives and make connections with parishioners on a spiritual level.



Attendees enjoying dinner before the Nicky Gumbel presentation followed by group discussion.

A message from Msgr. Romano Ciotola

“I thank all those who helped make the ALPHA Program a success, especially Rosemary Finneran and the Planning Committee. I thank the Table Leaders, their assistants and the Food Serving Committee for a job well done. Special thanks to all who attended, whose enthusiasm in seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord was admirable.”

ALPHA program reflects on these questions:

Who is Jesus?

Why did Jesus suffer and die?

Why and how should I pray?

Reflective Comments from Participants:

“I thoroughly enjoyed my ALPHA experience. Along with making wonderful new friends, having enlightened discussion and great food, it strengthened my relationship with God.”

“I was wanting something to deepen my faith, something to make me more aware of WHY I believe in Jesus Christ. I got all that I wanted/needed from the ALPHA program...and more!”

“I sat at a table with a parishioner I had seen in church for many years, but had never spoken to. Now, I consider her a ‘sister in Christ’ thanks to the ALPHA program .”

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve **Christmas Day**

4 PM Children’s Mass 10 AM Mass

7 PM Mass

10 PM Mass

New Years Eve **New Years Day**

5 PM Mass 8:30 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

Advent Reconciliation Service: Dec 4, 6:30-7:30 PM

Advent Concert: Sunday, December 11, 3:00 PM

A Christmas Message from our Pastor

Our Parish has been involved in many works of charity at the local and international level over the years. We thank OLV parishioners for their continued support to the homeless, food pantries and all needy people. We believe that charity begins at home. However, it does not end there. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our Lady of Victory continues to support people in Haiti and Honduras. During this Holy Season we will help the Church in Las Cayes, Haiti, and the Village of La Nueva Esperanza in Honduras.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Monsignor Romano Ciotola



Krista Joseph,
Director,
Religious Education

Religious Education

Our Religious Education year is off to a good start! 268 children in 4 programs:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (4-5 year olds): Our youngest group learns in a hands-on way. This program nurtures and educates the whole child in the ways of the Catholic faith.

Kindergarten—5th Grade: Students are practicing for the Christmas Play here at OLV Sunday, December 4, 10:00 AM. We are bursting at the seams with 4th graders! In honor of All Saints' Day students chose a saint to study and processed into Mass (dressed as their chosen saint) Sunday, October 30 at the 11:00 AM Mass. Congratulations and "Thank You" to Kathy Funge and Carmen Gray for all their help.

CHOSEN (6-8th Grade): Gina Sergio, Columbus Diocesan Missions Office, spoke to this group about the needs of the poor and talked to the students about how they can make a difference in the lives of others around the world. We will collect "NEW" toys for 1-16 year olds through Nov 30. Place your unwrapped new toys in the church vestibule.

Special Needs:

"Thank You" to the dedicated teachers of this new program and a special 'Thank You' to Diana Short, who creates the individualized lesson plans for four students who are working towards the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.



All Saints Day at OLV:
Father Missimi interviewing 4th graders

Vacation Bible School

A fun week in the summer where kids learn about God and their faith. (right)



Youth and Teen Ministry

Our OLV teens enjoy lots of fun activities throughout the year and volunteer at many Parish events. This past year they helped out at Vacation Bible School



Anita Milano,
Coordinator Youth
and Teen Ministry

in the Summer and this Fall organized a Halloween Party for children. In December the teens will host a Christmas Party for kids and mothers at the YWCA. Their skills at organizing and bringing people together will come in handy. By their presence and interaction, they mirror God's love.



Teens at the Halloween Party

Missionary Childhood Assn

The Annual Missionary Childhood Association Fall Fundraiser "Kids Helping Kids" assists children in need around the world. On Sunday, Nov 20, OLV Knights prepared Sloppy Joes, Pumpkin and Apple pie for the attendees.

This organization began in France in the 1860's to encourage children to help other children. Young people in America, once recipients of these funds, are now the largest fundraisers for the Society.

OLV Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show

Many local artists and crafters displayed their wares at the annual Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show in November at OLV. Visitors found unique Christmas gifts and holiday décor to put them into the Christmas spirit. White Elephant Sale, Italian Kitchen, Victory Café, Bake Sale and Cash Raffle all added to the festivities.

Mary Waterfield, and her band of dedicated volunteers, work tirelessly to ensure a successful Bazaar every year and this year, as before, their efforts paid off.

Proceeds from the Bazaar benefit the many needs and missions of the Parish.

An Advent Afternoon of Music

Celebrate the season and music of Christmas at our 7th Annual Advent Concert. The Choir, accompanied by an orchestra, will perform Advent and Christmas music, beginning with the simplicity of the 15th century melody “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and concluding with the joyful chorus “And the Glory of the Lord” from Handel’s Messiah.

The concert will include a beautiful 16th century Christmas anthem, pieces by American composers, rhythmic African and Brazilian songs and a lovely arrangement of Silent Night. Come and experience the message of Advent and Christmas through music.



Advent Concert

Sunday, Dec 11
3:00 PM

Our Lady of
Victory Church

(Free-will offering)

Children’s Christmas Party

Bring your children and grandchildren to the Knights of Columbus Christmas Party. Snacks and fun for the kids.

Photographs with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

December 17, 10-NOON
Parish Life Center

Parish Festival Report

In spite of rain, parishioners, families, friends and neighbors made the annual Parish Festival another great success this year. A very special raffle added a new dimension. A generous parishioner donated a ‘Cruise for Two’ as the top prize. The raffle was very well received and, along with the traditional Italian food, pastry, music, games and Silent Auction, added to the fun. Over \$32,000 from this summer’s festival will support parish activities and missions throughout the year.

As in years past, dedicated parish volunteers made this year’s Festival successful.

We encourage YOU and your family to join us next year.



Whether you help in the kitchen and dining room, sell tickets, park cars or assist with games, you will enjoy the camaraderie, meet fellow parishioners and ‘just have fun’!

Watch the bulletin in the summer for information on volunteering for the Parish Summer Festival.

Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner

Parishioners, neighbors and Columbus residents gathered to enjoy a wonderful Italian pasta dinner. 275 people were served.

Proceeds support the Knights in the many parish projects they facilitate throughout the year.



Will Mason

“It was truly enlightening to see how different the Honduran culture is, as well as how positive the Honduran people are... even though they live such difficult lives.

By the end of the week, I felt closer to God and it was hard to say goodbye.

The kids helped me more than I helped them.

I will never forget the memories from this short time at Montana deLuz.”

MONTANA DE LUZ.....MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT



Just east of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on top of a mountain, overlooking a valley of small villages and sugar cane fields, 30 children affected by HIV/AIDS call Montana de Luz (Mountain of Light) their home. Here over 65 children have receive specialized care, nurturance, healing and love and find a refuge from a dangerous world.

Montana de Luz started in 2000 as a hospice for children with HIV/AIDS whose parents had died or could not care for them. Since 2003 the facility has transitioned to a “home” thanks to the availability of anti-retroviral medications.

Since 2000 OLV parishioners (and others from the US) have traveled to Montana de Luz to work on construction projects alongside the Hondurans. Deacon Dick Baumann was one of the first from OLV to visit in 2000, and Father Romano in 2003.

Diana and Bob Short (OLV parishioners) have been very involved in planning and facilitating these mission trips. In fact ALL of their children have joined them at one time or another.

In June 2016 the Shorts led a team of 16 adults and youth mostly from OLV to Montana de Luz to continue the mission work.

In Diana Short’s own words:

“When our group arrived at the home we were greeted by smiling faces and generous hugs from the staff and children...then were informed that a storm had taken out the power and it would be restored in a few days.



Gina Krantz

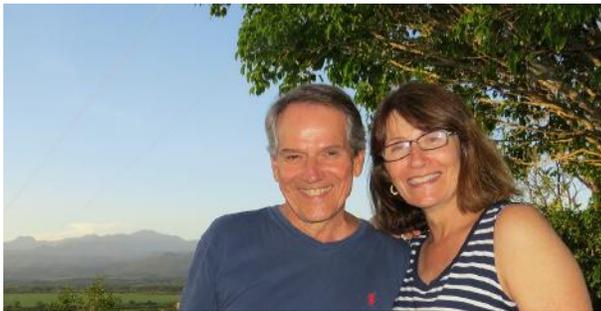
“God’s light illuminates the mountain, the people and visitors of Montana de Luz. We were greeted with such warmth, hospitality and newfound love that lasts long after serving the mission. The beautiful children refueled me daily with love and gratefulness. My heart often takes me on a journey to the mountain, recalling the love, the uninhibited love, both given and received.”

No water, no electricity...while that news creates much angst in our country, in Honduras this is a frequent occurrence. The lack of these necessities did not put a damper on anyone's spirits. Following days began with morning devotion followed by painting projects, digging trenches, laying pipes, stone chiseling and storage shed clean-up. All of that work was sandwiched between morning devotions, afternoon soccer and crafts and time for evening reflections. New friendships were developed and old friendships rekindled.

4th day...water and electricity finally restored. Everyone happy about that! Sunday we attended Mass at the church Father Romano built (with financial help from his generous parishioners, friends and family) in Nueva Esperanza. After Mass we were presented with a plaque thanking us for our partnership and especially Father Romano for his guidance and help in building the church. Love and kindness abounded!

Our departure day came very quickly, as it always does. Hugs, emotional good-byes and tears were shared by all. This particular group of adults and young people came together with the Honduran people to learn and serve the children of Montana de Luz."

ALL are still feeling the light from the Mountain!



Bob and Diana Short



Church in Nueva Esperanza



Michelle Fishpaw

“Embracing the Mountain of Light was a life-changing experience.

Celebrating the joy, happiness and love touched my heart forever.

Coming home, I realized I had changed. I look at the world and people differently now.

In the US we have so much...

electricity, running water, plumbing.

Having so little, the Honduran children never complain.

They celebrate their lives every day.

I felt the Holy Spirit was guiding our mission trip.

Jesus led all of us to Montana de Luz.”

“The moment you come to Montana de Luz, you immediately feel the love and presence of God. The children are amazing and so giving. A little girl I was playing with on my very first day, Crystal, stopped in the middle of play, took off her bracelet and handed it to me. It struck me that they have so little, but give so freely. During my week at the mission, we painted fences and built a new waterline for the teen boy's house. We accomplished a lot that week...but we received far more from MDL. “

Alexandra Joseph





*Our Lady of Victory
Catholic Church
1555 Roxbury Road
Columbus, OH 43212*

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Lenten Parish Mission 2017

**Save the Date
March 25-29, 2017**

Make the best use of the Lenten period. Attend the Parish Mission talks in 2017 to help you prepare for the Easter celebration, the crux of our faith. Christ suffered, died and was raised...all to pay for our sins and bring us to life everlasting.

Father Jack Collins will lead the Parish Mission. Collins was ordained to the Paulist Fathers in 1970 and was the Pastor of OSU Newman Center for many years. Known as a renowned speaker, Collins leads Parish Missions and retreats across the US and Canada.

Watch for important registration information in the bulletin at the start of the year.

