

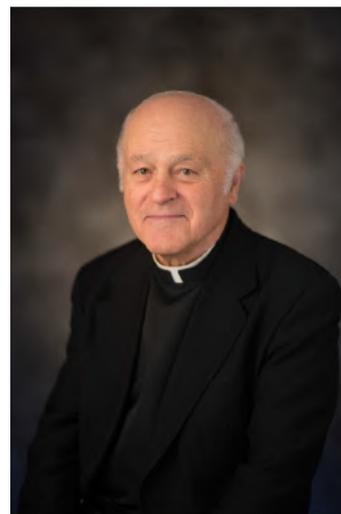
# VICTORY VOICES

OUR LADY OF VICTORY PARISH NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE #8, SPRING 2015 (MAY 2015)

## Monsignor Romano Ciotola Celebrates 50 Years as a Priest

When Father Romano was ordained in 1965 the Mass was entirely in Latin, the priest faced the altar during the liturgy and the people knelt at the communion rail to receive the Eucharist. While many things have changed, Father's love and wonder for the Eucharist has not. When asked what aspect of the Priesthood he holds most dear, Father identified the honor of consecrating the Eucharist as Number One. Fifty years as a priest brought Father into contact with many wonderful people, a myriad of experiences and challenges, and countless opportunities to serve God's people.

Father was born in the Abruzzi region of Italy. There were five children in all (3 girls and 2 boys). The elder Ciotola, Felice, emigrated to the US with Father's older sisters, Elda and Angela in 1956. While still in Italy, Father attended a boarding High School run by priests. The desire to join the priesthood was instilled in him at a very young age. By the end of High School he knew he wanted to become a priest. Fr. Romano entered the Pontifical Seminary in Chieti, Italy, for his first year of Seminary College. He emigrated to America in 1958 with the rest of his family (Mother Silvia, younger sister Rose, younger brother Ascenzo, and Romano, then 18 years old) and attended St. Charles Seminary in Columbus and Mt. St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati, where he completed theological studies.



Monsignor Romano Ciotola



Father Romano at his ordination

After Father's ordination, he was assigned as an Associate Pastor and High School Religion teacher in several parishes and schools in Ohio. In 1976 he became Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in London, OH, and served happily there for almost twelve years. Then in 1987 he was transferred to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Grove City, another rewarding experience for him that lasted thirteen years. In July 2000, Father arrived at Our Lady of Victory, his original home parish in the US, to serve all of us as our Pastor.

How fitting that Father would celebrate his 50th anniversary at Our Lady of Victory where he first experienced the Church in the US. He was met with a Parish community grateful that Father was sent here to lead our Parish. Father Romano's dedication to the Church comes through in all that he does to serve the people in our Parish and community.

See page 7 for information on Father's 50th Anniversary Parish Celebration.

### Important dates (May through September)

Vacation Bible School:	June 15-18	Parish Summer Festival:	Aug 7-8
Religious Ed Prog begins:	Sept 13	World Meeting of Families:	Sept 22-25



**Michelle Fishpaw**  
**Director, Religious**  
**Education**

## Religious Education

We are busy preparing another year filled with fun, spiritual, educational activities for our young Kindergarten through 5th graders. Our Religious Education year will begin September 13, 2015. Watch for a mailing from us in mid-August with information about registration.

We recently concluded First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in our parish. The children embraced the sacraments and reminded us of the sanctity and grace-filled gifts available to all of us.

Michelle Fishpaw has been Religious Education Director at OLV for the last two years. She has done a wonderful job guiding our young children as they grow in their faith. Michelle will be taking a teaching position at Trinity School later this year. We will miss her guidance, but thank her for her devoted service to the children of our Parish.

## Confirmation at OLV—April 21



Forty seven young people were confirmed at OLV by Bishop Frederick Campbell. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, they received the Holy Spirit in a very special way:

“Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the Spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God our Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your heart. “

## Vacation Bible School 2015

Directors, Candace Gourno and Anita Milano Guy, invite you to register your Pre-K through 5th grader for Vacation Bible School 2015:

**June 15-18; 5:30-8:00 PM (Mon-Thurs).**

The theme this year.....

**Cool Kingdom Party**  
**Mary Leads Me Closer to Jesus.**



For registration information or questions, contact:

Candace at: [cgourno@gmail.com](mailto:cgourno@gmail.com)  
 Anita at: [anita.milanogay@gmail.com](mailto:anita.milanogay@gmail.com)

## Religious Education



Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Dinner

### Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Dinner

To celebrate their Commitment Ceremony a dinner was held for the RCIA Candidates. Speakers, Maria Krantz, Kelly Reidenbach, and Deacon Rob Joseph, explained the Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Understanding
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord.

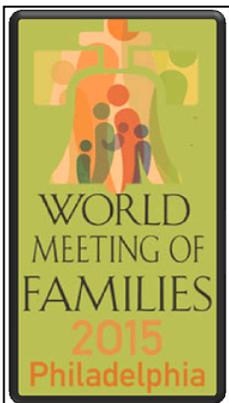
### First Holy Communion at OLV - April 26

Thirty-three children prepared with Father Romano for their First Holy Communion by learning how to examine their conscience and ask Jesus Christ for forgiveness of their sins.

All of this in preparation to receive, for the first time, the Holy Eucharist.



### Pope Francis in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families



The Holy Father will be in Philadelphia September 22-25 for the World Meeting of Families, an event that seeks to strengthen the sacred bonds of ‘family’ across the globe and highlight its intrinsic value to the good of society. Being held in the United States for the first time ever, the official theme for the 2015 World Meeting of Families is:

**“Love is our mission: the family fully alive.”**

Our parish is encouraging families to travel to this event. The Fishpaws (Michelle, Jon and teenagers, Claire and Grace) are planning to attend. For more information, go to: [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org) or contact Michelle ([religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc)).

## Volunteer Dinner



Steve Stroh

Our parishioners continue to offer their time, talent and treasure so that our spiritual community can flourish. Parishioners who participated in ANY parish activity as a volunteer during 2014 were treated to a special awards dinner in January.

Two especially dedicated volunteers, Steve Stroh and Gene McHugh, were honored for their tireless, commitment to the parish building project (renovation of the church and building the Parish Life Center). Their backgrounds in construction, engineering and architecture made them invaluable assets to the endeavor.



Gene McHugh

We thank them, and ALL volunteers, for their efforts.



Every year the Knights conduct a 'Measure Up Campaign' to benefit the Heinzerling Foundation. Friday, May 1, the Knights stood at street intersections throughout the city and collected donations from generous citizens on their way to work, running errands, taking kids to school. The donations help the Heinzerling Foundation provide a loving and nurturing environment for individuals with severe or profound developmental disabilities.

Open to all Catholic men in the parish, the Knights of Columbus meet second Wednesdays of the month.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society, a service organization, meets on the third Sundays of each month, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, in Victory Hall. Prayers at the opening and closing of each meeting remind members that the motive for their works is in the love of God.

During Easter season the group delivered food and Easter Baskets to fourteen needy families, packed 200 + lunches for the Open Shelter (for the homeless) in downtown Columbus and held drives to collect cleaning supplies and toiletries for families in our community.

All parishioners are welcome to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Get to know us by joining us at the next Sunday meeting.

## OLV Serves at Homeless Supper

The Columbus YWCA Family Center shelters families with dependent children who have NO safe place to sleep. Neighborhood parishes provide warm, healthy meals...and home-baked desserts. OLV parishioners pitched in to prepare and serve food to these families on Friday, Jan 30.

Besides nourishing the bodies of these families, they brought the love of Christ into their lives and followed Christ's call to serve. Watch the bulletin for opportunities for you and your family to participate in these suppers. You will be blessed in many ways!



## OLV Parish Festival

Friday/Saturday (August 7 and 8)

Summer would not be summer without the OLV Parish Festival. Watch the bulletin for information. Volunteer this year and really join in the FUN!

Contact; NancyTarini  
(nancy.tarini@hylant.com)



Camryn, Taylor, Allison,  
Gracie, Gina and Mike

## Dinner for Altar Servers

Altar servers were rewarded for their hard work, diligence and commitment to serving mass at OLV at a pizza dinner given by Father Romano. New servers prepare for their responsibilities for a full week with Deacon Joseph to understand their role in the celebration of the mass. After some time serving with a mentor, they are ready to serve on their own.

All agree the experience has been good for them socially and spiritually, although each had their own ‘bad experience’ to laugh about... candles that would not blow out, rope falling off their robe, being called in from the pews when no server available. We appreciate their dedication and hope the experience strengthens their faith and the bonds of their friendships.



## Lenten Fish Fry's 2015

Another great season of Fish Fry's at OLV...3,800+ dinners were served during the Lenten period. Once again, the long lines at the doors of the Parish Life Center, along with the crowded tables and animated conversation and laughter coming from the dining room, indicated OLV is again at the TOP of the list of Fish Fry's in Columbus.

## Soup Suppers and SYMBOLON

During the Lenten Season, there are many ways to strengthen our faith and concentrate on the passion of Christ. This year OLV added a series of lectures to take us on a journey into the timeless beauty and truths of the Catholic faith and reveal to us God's incredible love for us—the story of salvation.

Approximately 40 parishioners met Wednesdays during Lent for delicious soups provided by parishioners and DVD lectures (Symbolon) and facilitated discussions. The series continued for five weeks after Easter.



Soup Supper participants in discussion

## Easter Season

Lent is the season we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Stations of the Cross, our own meditation and prayer practices, our sacrifices and charitable actions, Reconciliation, Holy Thursday service, Easter Vigil, culminating with Easter Sunday Mass...all serve to remind us of the sacrifice Christ made in order to redeem us and open the gates of Heaven.



The altar decorated for Easter



## Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross began with the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every Catholic church.

Today, the solemn devotion takes us along the route to each of the stations to reflect on Christ' passion and death.

*“I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.*

*He who believes in*

*me will live,*

*even though*

*he dies;*

*and whoever lives*

*and believes in me*

*will never die.*

*Do you believe  
this?”*

*John 11:25-26*

## Holy Thursday

During the Holy Thursday service, Father Romano and Father Missimi performed the traditional ‘washing of the feet’. The priests removed their vestments and wore only the white alb to indicate their role as ‘servant’. The washing of the feet represents the service and charity of Christ, who came 'not to be served, but to serve'. (Matt. 20:28).



## Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the most significant night of the liturgical year for adults seeking to become Catholic via RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). At the Vigil, the Elect who have not been baptized (the Catechumens) will be baptized and join the Elect



who have been baptized (the Candidates) in full initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation. They receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion at this one sacred ceremony and are now full members of the Church.



*Father Romano.....Congratulations on your  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a PRIEST!*

*All parishioners are invited to join in  
a Parish Celebration for Father's anniversary.*

*Sunday, May 31*

*Mass at 11:00 am*

*Buffet Lunch to follow mass (NO NEED TO RSVP)*

*Father, May you continue to be sustained by His grace. May your life in God's service always be filled with joy.*

## A Message from Fr. Romano to the Parish

### OLV Supports Haiti Church



### Bishop's Annual Appeal 2015

Funds generated through your gifts to the Appeal enable the Diocese to maintain and direct programs and ministries that benefit the lives of so many in the twenty three counties of our Diocese. This year's theme "Until He Comes Again, This is Our Work" reminds us that there is much we can do to establish His kingdom on earth until He comes again. For love of Christ and all that He has given us we are compelled to share what we have, whether it be time, talent or treasure, with our brothers and sisters.

Many of the programs supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal benefit OLV Parish. This year our goal is \$62,928. I ask you to support these ministries of Education, Spirituality and Social Concerns. Any amount raised that exceeds our goal will be returned to us for whatever needs we have as a parish.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for your care and concern and the generosity you have shown in support of Our Lady of Victory Parish and the Diocese of Columbus.

You remain in my prayers, **Fr. Romano**

**If you have already made your contribution, we thank you.  
If not, please use the enclosed envelope.**

For the past few years, OLV Parish has been involved in building a new Parish Life Center and renovating the Church. The cost amounted to over five million dollars (\$5,000,000). By the grace of God and your generosity these improvements are now paid in full. A few projects remain (statuary in the Prayer Garden, permanent stand for Church Statuary, etc). To show our gratitude to God, the parish donated \$50,000 to the Church in Haiti. This amount includes a personal donation to thank God for his many blessings. This is a one-time donation. However, the Parish hopes to provide continued support in some manner to this ministry.

OLV is helping the Diocese of Les Cayes in East Haiti, in particular, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. This church is nine years old and has 8,000 members. The parish consists of a main church and school (375 children) with six chapels. The major challenges include adding on to the school and installing a floor in the church and electricity in the rectory and church/school complex.

We will correspond with the Haiti parish regularly and involve their children in our Religious Education Program. Thank you for your support.

In Christ, **Fr. Romano**

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information included in this newsletter.  
If an error has been made, we apologize and encourage you to contact us at (614) 783-0785.



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

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**Workers install the new 700 lb bell.**



**The bell tower at  
Our Lady of Victory**

## **Bell Tower Rings Out at OLV**

**A** new 700 lb bell installed in the tower of our beautiful church brings **new** technology to an **old** tradition.

Now beautiful bells are heard pealing from the tower on a regular schedule. The original bell, forged in 1679, is still in use.

Listen for the bells to ring out at noon and 6 PM and to announce the start of every mass.

The bells ring special tones for weddings and other happy celebrations and appropriate tones for funerals.