

# OUR LADY OF VICTORY

Church of

April/May 2019

## Alleluia! He is Risen!

Saying those words is like drinking a tall glass of cold water after being out in the desert all day. When Lent is over it will be time to celebrate the great joy of Easter!

At the Easter Vigil, the Exsultet is sung as Mass begins in darkness, illumined only by candles throughout the church. The Exsultet is a beautiful hymn of rejoicing in Christ's triumph over sin and death. One part states:

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

This line stands out because it calls the sin of Adam "necessary" and refers to it as "O happy fault." At first, this may seem strange. Why is it that we refer to the sin of Adam, Original Sin, as "necessary" and "happy." The answer is Easter. It's because God, in His perfect wisdom and love, took sin and the consequence of sin (death) and used them as the means of the salvation of the world. That's what Easter is all about!

This may be hard to comprehend so it's worth thinking about more deeply. Without Adam's sin, there would be no Jesus. God would not have had to become one of us. So even though the original sin of Adam, as well as all future sin, is evil and wrong, God in His perfect power and love chose to use it as the very means of the salvation of the world. How? By allowing the sins of the world to persecute Him and crucify Him, and then, by turning that suffering and death into the very means of salvation. Jesus destroyed sin by destroying the consequences of sin which is death. Death loses in the Resurrection! Jesus' Resurrection takes away the effects of all sin for those who cling to Him.

Easter is a time when we must do just that. We must "cling" to our resurrected Lord! We must cling to Jesus who is alive and well. We must cling to His Resurrection and strive to share in it. How do we cling to our Resurrected Lord? There are many ways. Here is one.

Take joy in everything. Start with whatever it is that burdens you the most. Whatever it is that makes you angry, sad or depressed. Whatever that is, it can potentially become one of your greatest sources of grace and joy. Seriously, it can. If the brutal Crucifixion of Jesus, the Son of God, can turn out to be the greatest event in all of human history, then your personal suffering, your burden, or even your sin can very much become a source of great joy as long as you let God transform it into part of His Resurrection!

This is the meaning of Easter! Easter means that nothing can keep us from the joy that God wants to give us. Nothing can steal that joy away. Sure, at times we will struggle just as Jesus did in the Agony of the Garden and the *Via Dolorosa* (the Way of the Cross), but those sufferings will not win. The Resurrection won with Christ and it will win with us when we cling to Him. Jesus persevered and, in the end, rose victorious. This is Easter!

Know that God wants you to experience the joy of Easter in your life. Let Him fill you with hope and with the joy that only the Resurrection can bring. God wants Easter to begin now in our lives! Happy Easter!

*Lord, help me to cling to You in Your Resurrection. Help me to let you transform every cross and burden in my life into joy. Lord, may Your joy fill my life and be my strength in all things. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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# A Lenton Season Alive with Parish Activities

Since the start of the New Evangelization Office (NEO) here at our Parish, Our Lady of Victory Church, it has been an exciting and adventurous experience. Committees have been established and our activities include:

- RCIA: helping those who are interested in joining the Catholic Faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.
- Baptism classes for all couples who request the Sacraments of Baptism for their babies.
- Catechism Class once a month. This program helps all of us Catholics to become more familiar with the teachings of our church.
- Come and See: is a monthly gathering at different homes of our Parishioners to build relationships and help each other and grow in our Faith.
- Young Couples has been gathering monthly at different houses of our young couples. This event helps our young people to be nourished through their friendship and to be reminded that they are the present and future hope of our Church.
- NEO supper: monthly gathering with Fr. Alan, Fr. Bill, and myself with 10 parishioners. We have food prepared by the NEO committee group and have a wonderful evening filled with great conversations and spirit.
- Leading pilgrimages: we have had two pilgrimages so far and we are planning one in the month of June. More information's coming soon.
- NEO Cultural Diversity event. This year we are celebrating the 3rd year of hosting this event. It has brought different people from different cultures, countries, and experiences. This event has reminded all of us the Catholicity of our Church, which is the richness of our faith.
- Youth pastors in town: build relationships with other churches.

May 17th we will celebrate the 3rd year anniversary of the NEO office.

*by Mammias H. Mammias, NEO Director*



**NEO CULTURAL DIVERSITY EVENT**



*Confirmation Group*

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

- |                      |                                     |                    |   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| April 15             | Easter Church Cleaning              | May 8              | Finance Council 5:30 p.m.                     |
| April 15             | Guatemala Presentation 7:00 p.m.    | May 9              | Board of Education 5:30 p.m.                  |
| April 16             | Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.          |                    | Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m.                  |
| April 16             | RCIA                                | May 12             | Final Children's Liturgy of the Word          |
| April 17             | Women's Group 11:30 a.m.            | May 14             | Knights of Columbus 6:00 p.m.                 |
| April 18 & 25        | Quilters                            |                    | St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.                       |
| April 22             | Parish Office Closed                | May 15             | Women's Group 11:30 a.m.                      |
| April 23             | St. Robert's 1:30 p.m.              | May 18             | NEO Supper at the Rectory                     |
| April 23             | Stewardship 6:30 p.m.               | May 19             | Baccalaureate 10:30 Mass                      |
| April 24             | Faith Formation gr. K-10            | May 21             | Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.                    |
| April 25             | Parish Council 5:30 p.m.            | May 23             | Parish Council 5:30 p.m.                      |
| April 27             | Spring Gala                         | May 26             | Blessings of Graves 2:00 p.m. at St. Otto's ? |
| April 28             | Divine Mercy Sunday                 | May 27             | Parish Office Closed                          |
| May 1                | Mental Health Presentation          | May 28             | Stewardship 6:30 p.m.                         |
| May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Quilters                            |                    | St. Robert's 1:30 p.m.                        |
| May 2                | Vocations Mass at OLV               | June 1 & 15        | St. Joseph Men and WinGs                      |
| May 4                | First Communion Practice 10:00 a.m. | June 4             | Social Concerns 5:30 p.m.                     |
| May 4 and 18         | St. Joseph Men and WinGs            |                    | Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.                    |
| May 5                | First Communion 10:30 Mass          | June 6, 13, 20, 27 | Quilters                                      |
| May 7                | Social Concerns Committee 5:30 p.m. | June 11            | Knights of Columbus 6:00 p.m.                 |
|                      | Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.          | June 13            | St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.                       |
|                      |                                     |                    | Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m.                  |



# Mission Trip to Peru

By Deb Forstner



*Deb and Olga standing by grotto of Mary which they walked by daily to/from Olga's home and parish.*

It is very difficult to pick out the most memorable part of our Mission Trip to Peru, but I would have to say it was the "Reverse Mission" aspect. By that I mean, it was not so much what any of us from Minnesota did for the people in Peru, but it was the unmatched joy and love showered upon all of us.

Originally I considered traveling to Peru with an organization that provides dormitory-like housing for volunteers. I thought this plan would be a more sanitized and easier way to travel. However, I am so glad I took the leap of faith to allow Father Lucho Palomino, dear friend of our pastor Father Alan Wielinski, and the master of ceremonies of our mission trip in Peru, to assign me and my friend to a parishioner's home. Fr. Lucho had told Mayme Hofland, from Our Lady of Victory's parish staff and our mission trip coordinator, that this 74 year old woman named Olga and her nephews who live with her, would provide the perfect match, and he was so very right.

Olga is very, very spiritual and religious, and very, very much an animated, emotional, humorous, and 'tell-it-like-it is' character. Between her English, my Spanish, and pantomime/charades, we communicated quite nicely (or at least eventually!). Twice when we were there she was the lector at Mass, and she is the creator and one who ironed the wardrobe for the Three Kings (played by local policemen) who rode their horses in a procession with us singing and clapping behind them for about a mile to church Sunday morning. Olga is fit and walks quickly and

with purpose, and in that respect is a great role model for me. Her life has not been easy; her husband was a police officer and assassinated approximately 30 years ago by the Communist Group The Shining Path, and on the same day she was in a near fatal car accident. She had three young children at the time, and it was with the help of one of her nephews,



*Olga holding miniature statue of St. Martin de Porres, one of Patron Saints of Peru.*

then in his early 20's, that her children were cared for during her hospital recuperation. Olga was a teacher in her career, and she continued to use her wonderful teaching ability with us as her guests.

On the last day of our stay, Olga had both my roommate and me sit in chairs, while she stood and read from a note she had worked on previously, all written out in English. As she read, my eyes opened into a floodgate of tears, in response to the beauty of what she had done for us as our hostess, and the loving message she read. She followed that up by bringing me a book of prayers written in English. She asked me to say the words of the Lord's Prayer slowly with her, correcting her pronunciation if necessary. As I pointed to each word (I had once been a teacher myself), my voice became very small due to tearfulness, but she paid no attention to that. Olga said she wanted to surprise her friends by her ability to say this prayer in English the right way. And so, I corrected her English when necessary, in the same way she had me repeat back Spanish words until I got them right.



*Olga as Lector at Mass with Padre Lucho in background.*

When I reflect upon our experiences in Olga's home, I think of quotes from Saint Mother Teresa. "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier," and "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." Olga gave to us with her whole heart and soul and left me a better person. Thanks to technology we have been staying in touch, and thanks to Olga having a daughter in the U.S., my roommate and I hope to visit Olga when she comes to see her daughter and family in our country. Maybe we could even get her to Minnesota, but Olga has made it clear that it won't be in the cold! However, I believe no polar vortex would be able to freeze out Olga's warmth.



*Darcy Cowing-Frank is a member of Our Lady of the Lake in Battle Lake. Her thoughts on the trip to Peru, "As I return home from my 2nd Mission trip to Peru, I am feeling so blessed to have lived with these beautiful people. They call me "family" now! The work we organized was truly appreciated and I know I now feel I not only RECEIVED from them, but GAVE of myself this time. I know there is so much more we can do.....our families will receive and love us again! Thank you for my opportunity!"*

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday Funday / Outdoor Mass  
July 14th, 2019

Welcome  
New Comers!



### Brandon & Dana Van Santen

Brandon and Dana grew up in Battle Lake. They began attending Mass at Our Lady of Victory after getting married and moving to Fergus Falls in 2017. Brandon is an elementary teacher in Fergus Falls. Dana is a nurse in Alexandria. They have a 3-month old daughter named Evelyn. Welcome to OLV!



# Quotes from Mission Attendees

*"My favorite part of the mission was Mark's respectful answers to all, no matter what the questions were. He seemed to see Jesus in everyone."*

Gail Welle

*"I loved how the Bible and Jesus interaction with the various disciples came to life. I could totally picture myself there and witnessing everything. I loved it!"*

Rhonda Antrim

*"Judas - It gave me a different perspective on Judas."*

Jeff Aschnewitz

*"His portrayal of people from the Bible gave them life. I liked how Judas was made human and relatable to some extent."*

Dee Fritz

*"I appreciate Judas and Paul better."*

Jeff Jennen

*"He was very intelligent, and I enjoyed our conversations outside of the mission lectures. He was very deep."*

Diane Aschnewitz

*"This Mission represented Stewardship. 'He picked me! He trusted me! He loved me!' Each of the statements Mark Price made in his portrayal of the various disciples, was also true of those who responded and made the mission possible. What a beautiful coming together as community serving our Lord as one!"*

Ione Koep



*"He was a Godly, gentle, man. You could tell he wasn't just playing a part. The depth of each character amazed me."*

Dave Peters

*"The message of hope resonated with me. There is always hope no matter what you are going through. His humor was also so unique, yet respectful."*

Gail Brennen

*"Don't Fight! [between religions] was a strong message I heard. He also made the biblical characters more real."*

Darlene Draeger

*"Because of my roles in the church, I initially attended Mark's presentations out of obligation. After seeing the first one, I soon started attending because I enjoyed them. I started looking forward to going. He was remarkable in his knowledge of each disciple and portraying them in such a unique and inviting way."*

Anonymous

*"I enjoyed his perspective. He made the disciples into real people, humanizing saintly people."*

Tony Gettel

*"We loved it and thought it was well received by many, and heard from quite a few who do not belong to the Catholic faith that they enjoyed it very much; in fact, they attended every night! We hope it was considered a success and that people were able to have deeper spiritual Lenten experience. I know we did."*

Jill Fischer

*"My grandkids loved every night. I especially loved the discussion on suicide."*

Lindy Dewey





# OLV School to Host 10th Annual Spring Gala



Our Lady of Victory Catholic School will be hosting their 10th Annual Spring Gala and Auction on April 27, 2019. The evening starts at 5:30pm and includes a meal catered by the American Legion, silent and live auction, cash bar, games and fellowship. This year's meal options are BBQ Pork Ribs, Stuffed Chicken Breast and Vegetarian Lasagna; baked potato, salad, roll, dessert and wine.

As always, there is a great line-up of auction items already coming in. Some of the items up for auction include an 8-course dinner in your home with an area chef, Murder Mystery experience for 16-20 people, vacation home weekend, and an Italian supper prepared by two area priests.

OLV strives to provide affordable tuition to families while paying our staff a competitive wage. We are working to increase our teacher wages to a level that attracts and continues to retain quality, dedicated staff. Strong community support, growing enrollment and fundraising events like the Spring Gala make it possible for OLV



School to maintain its presence in the Fergus Falls community.

OLV has been a part of the Fergus Falls community since 1956 and has a strong tradition of academic



excellence. Educational opportunities that include moral and religious instruction, sense of community, dyslexia tutoring and multiple aged students in one building lead to secure, confident students who have a strong foundation on which to build the rest of their education. In addition to K-6, OLV also houses the Learning Ladder Preschool, which provides all day and half day preschool to over 45 students in the community each year. Childcare for enrolled students is also available before and after school. This allows students to be in a safe, familiar place while parents start or finish up their work day.

Tickets are available for sale in the school office or from a committee member. Ticket prices are \$250 for a table of 8; 2 tickets for \$75 or single tickets for \$40. Please contact the school at 218-736-6661 to reserve your tickets or to donate items for the auction. We thank the OLV Parish and the Fergus Falls community for their continued support of OLV School and the education of all students!



**Our Lady of Victory School**  
426 W Cavour Ave  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218) 736-6661

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

## 10th Annual OLV School Spring Gala - Saturday, April 27th, 2019

The Gala is the largest fundraiser for our parish school. It includes a meal, live and silent auctions, raffles and several fun opportunities to support the school throughout the evening.

Gala proceeds help maintain just wages for teachers and keep tuition affordable for families. In addition, funds help purchase additional teaching resources and learning tools for all classrooms.

Would you like to support the OLV Gala fundraiser, but cannot attend? Please fill out the following information and return this slip with your donation to the school or parish office in person or by mail:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

# Annual Salad Luncheon / Silent Auction

The Catholic Daughters held their Annual Salad Luncheon/Silent Auction on April 6th.

Money raised goes to several service projects including Habitat for Humanity, Covenant House, Smile Train, Stuff the Bus with school supplies, and Support for our Seminarians, to name a few. Thank you to all who participated!



Catholic Daughters





# Two Favorite Priests Celebrate Their Big Birthdays at OLV!



# Reflections of an Old Man

## What is this Thing Called Love?

An interesting thought came to mind a month or so ago after re-reading the reading for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary time (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13). From way, way back in my past came the words of a popular song: “What is this thing called love?” In a flash, it occurred to me that the lyricist must never have read that beautiful message of St. Paul’s, in which he makes it quite clear that even though I may speak in angelic tongues, have the gift of prophecy, have faith so as to move mountains, and give away all I have, if I don’t have love, I am nothing.

OK. I never thought it could be any clearer that. And for the most part, I’ve told myself, I *have* love. I love my kids, grandkids, great grandkids and friends. I do almost my best to help the poor and suffering, even though I may not know them. And, of course, I love my God.

But for several days I continued to look at that reading. As I did so, it became ever more clear to me that to St. Paul, love is much more than the commonly held idea of a big, warm, friendly (or romantic) feeling towards others or another. How much more can be seen by the long list he gives of attributes that describe not only what love *is* but what it is *not*.

Considering those examples has given me considerably more insight into some of my shortcomings and how they fit into St. Paul’s definitions of love. Space doesn’t allow me to mention all of them, or the concerns they raise, but a few examples should illustrate what I mean.

Love is patient. So why do I chomp at the bit, use words I shouldn’t use and say things I shouldn’t say when the coal train parked towards the bottom of Peck Street might cause me to be two minutes late for my tee time?

Love is kind. So why do I take a few extra quick steps in order to beat the lady with the packed cart to the checkout stand at Service Food?

Love is not rude. So why have I, at times, snapped at the clerk or waitress who makes a mistake with my order or the amount of my change?

Love is not jealous. So why do I find myself envious, even for a moment, of the guy who wins a million dollars in the lottery or drives the car I’d really like to have?

Love believes all things. So why do I continue to have doubts about a few rather significant elements of my faith?

Love is not quick tempered. Ask Margaret about that some time!

Even though it was accidental, I don’t know anything I could have done that would have better prepared me for Lent. It enabled me to make a few Lenten resolutions that may bring me just a little closer to love as St. Paul describes it.

By the way, the last words of that song are “And so I ask the Lord, in Heaven above, ‘What is this thing called love?’” *Maybe the lyricist (Cole Porter, I believe) should have read St. Paul!*

Lee Krogh



# Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

207 North Vine Street  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

## MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 8:30 a.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 3:30 p.m.

**Our Lady of Victory School (K-6th grade)**  
**Learning Ladder Preschool (3-5 year olds, full and half day)**  
218/736-6661  
[www.ffolvschool.org](http://www.ffolvschool.org)



## EASTER SCHEDULE

*Holy Thursday (Apr. 18) – 7:00 p.m.*

*Good Friday (Apr. 19) – 3:00 p.m. (no Mass a.m.)*

*Easter Vigil (Apr. 20) – 7:30 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday (Apr. 21) – 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*

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

**Weekend Mass:** *Saturday*, 4:30 p.m. Vigil | *Sunday*, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**Daily Mass:** *Tuesday*, 12:05 p.m. | *Thursday & Friday*, 9:00 a.m.

**Confession:** *Thursday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Friday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Saturday*, 3:30 p.m.