

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center

3989 South Moon Drive  
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[www.olph-retreat.org](http://www.olph-retreat.org)  
(941) 486-0233

Newsletter

October 2021

## The Remedy for Spiritual Jeopardy

The late Alex Trebek hosted Jeopardy for over 35 years with skill and dignity. I trust he would not mind if I were to suggest a question for his program to stump even 74-time winner Ken Jennings:

*"In a 2002 document, Pope John Paul II called this former Satanic priest "the apostle of the Rosary."*

Blessed Bartolo Longo, who is now one step away from sainthood in the Catholic Church, seemed as far away from Heaven as one could get when he was "ordained" to the priesthood of Satan as a young adult. During the ceremony, the walls shook, cries of blasphemy were heard from evil spirits, and Bartolo became so frightened that he lost consciousness. But he had good friends who simply refused to stop praying for him. Several years later he underwent a dramatic conversion with the help of a Dominican friar, Fr. Alberto Radente.

However, Bartolo's spiritual struggles didn't end with his conversion. One day a troubling thought occurred to him that nearly caused him to take his own life:

*"One day in the fields around Pompeii called Arpaia. . . I recalled my former condition as a priest of Satan. . . . I thought that perhaps as the priesthood of Christ is for eternity, so also the priesthood of Satan is for eternity. So, despite my repentance, I thought, 'I am still consecrated to Satan, and I am still his slave and property as he awaits me in Hell.' As I pondered over my condition, I experienced a deep sense of despair and almost committed suicide. Then I heard an echo in my ear of the voice of Friar Alberto repeating the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 'One who propagates my Rosary shall be saved.' These words certainly brought an illumination to my soul. Falling to my knees, I exclaimed, '. . . If your words are true that he who propagates your Rosary will be saved, I shall reach salvation because I shall not leave this earth without propagating your Rosary.'"<sup>1</sup>*

Bartolo immediately began to organize a parish mission in Pompeii and brought in priests to speak about the Rosary. He raised funds to build a church in Pompeii dedicated to Our Lady, which still hosts thousands of pilgrims each day. He spent the rest of his life helping orphans, writing books about the Rosary, writing prayers (including a prayer book for use at the church in Pompeii), and paid for education of about 45 seminarians.

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to Rosary, primarily because the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7. This month, then, is the perfect time to return to praying the Rosary or to begin praying it with more fervor, especially for those in your life who seem to be in the greatest spiritual jeopardy. If Mary can lead a man from being a minister of devil worship to the worship of the true God, who are we to think that anyone is hopeless?

In Christ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

*Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV*

Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV

### Contact Us

(941) 486-0233

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<sup>1</sup> From *Secular Saints*. Joan Carroll Cruz. (Rockford: Tan Books, 1989) p. 74.

# Butterfly Ball

Saturday, February 19, 2022 - 6:00 to 10:00 pm  
Chelsea Center @ St. Thomas More, Sarasota



Have you purchased your tickets for the 2022 OLPH Butterfly Ball? This will be OLPH’s major fundraiser for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The last event of this type was held 15 years ago in 2006! Bishop Frank J. Dewane will join Fr. Mark and Fr. Lino, in a lovely evening of music from multiple artists, fine dining, and fun. Tickets are \$150 and can be purchased online at: [www.olph-retreat.org/butterfly-ball-tickets](http://www.olph-retreat.org/butterfly-ball-tickets).

We will have limited seating to assist with social distancing. A special **THANK YOU** to **St. William** and **St. Agnes**, both of Naples, for helping sponsor the event! If you are interested in reserving a table, advertising in the Event’s Program, donating an item to our auction, or underwriting the event, please contact Simona Handley or Denise Riley at (941) 486-0233 or visit our website.

## Monthly Day of Prayer

The Monthly Day of Prayer is an opportunity to take time out of our busy and hectic lives to focus on God and devote time to prayer and reconciliation. At OLPH, the Monthly Day of Prayer is offered on the second Sunday and second Wednesday of each month. The event’s schedule is to the right.

Our next dates are October 10th and 13th. The conference topics are the same for the Sunday and Wednesday session in each month, so please choose the day that is compatible with your schedule. The cost is \$40.00. You can reserve your spot via our [website](#) or call us at (941) 486-0233.

9:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast
10:00	First Conference
11:00	Private prayer time and confession
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Second Conference
1:45	Adoration
2:30	Mass
3:15	Day Concludes

## OLPH Gift Shop

Our Gift Shop provides a variety of spiritual books and CDs, as well as rosaries, crucifixes, prayer cards/ bookmarks, and religious jewelry.



The Gift Shop is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 4:00, and the second Sunday of each month during the Monthly Day of Prayer. We accept cash, check and debit/credit cards (with a minimum \$20 purchase).

## Welcoming Our Guests

In the beginning of September, we said goodbye to four priests from South Carolina who completed their 30-day retreat with their Spiritual Director, Fr. Joseph Carola, and said hello to our new retreatants. We hosted the Men’s Hispanic Cursillo on Labor Day weekend followed by 26 priests from our Diocese for a 5-day retreat, the Venice Cursillo Formation group, and the Boy Scouts for their Ten Commandments Hike. In addition, we hosted nine private retreatants.

In October, we look forward to conducting the OLPH Men’s Retreat, scheduled for October 15-17 and hosting DOV’s Women’s Cursillo and Matt Talbot groups, as well as sixteen private retreatants.



**Interested in a Retreat? See the last page of this newsletter or our website for more information.**

## Who are the Oblates of the Virgin Mary?

So what does the “OMV” signify after the names of Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV and Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV? Fr. Mark and Fr. Lino are members of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary (OMV). The Oblates, whose name means “offering,” are a group of priests and brothers founded early in 1816 by the Venerable Fr. Pio Bruno Lanteri, a priest from Northern Italy.

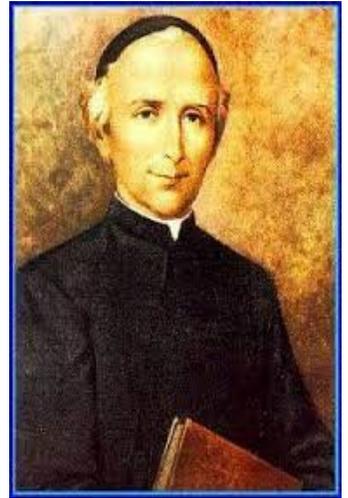
Fr. Lanteri was born in Cuneo, Italy in 1759. After the death of his mother in 1763, his father presented him to a statue of Mary in their parish church, telling him, “She is your mother now.” From this time, Lanteri maintained a deep and persistent devotion to Mary.

During the French Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte’s army invaded Northern Italy. Fr. Lanteri was placed under house arrest from 1811-1814. It was a turbulent era both in secular society and in the Church. The anti-Christian spirit of the French Revolution was running rampant. Among those who continued to practice religion, the Jansenist heresy obscured the truth of God’s love, while other ideologies undermined the authority of the Pope.

In 1814, three zealous priests came to Fr. Lanteri for guidance in forming a fraternity dedicated to preaching retreats and reviving the Church in the wake of the spiritual ravages of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. He founded the Oblates to work toward a rebirth of authentic spirituality by means of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Fr. Lanteri entrusted the group to the Virgin Mary, whom he always called their foundress and teacher. Having lost his own mother at the age of four, he used to say with a heartfelt love: “I have known no other mother than Mary most holy, and throughout my life I have received nothing but caresses from such a good mother.”

Despite some initial setbacks, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary were approved by Pope Leo XII on September 1, 1826. Fr. Lanteri died four years later on August 5, 1830. The ministries of the Oblates include spiritual direction, guided retreats, publishing, preaching, teaching and working with the poor and needy. The Oblates initially established themselves in the United States in September 1976, with a community in Boston. Today, they serve in retreat centers and parishes in the archdioceses of Boston, Los Angeles, and Denver, and in the diocese of Springfield, Illinois and Venice, Florida. In the 1990’s, the U.S. Province took on the project of a mission in Cebu and Antipolo, Philippines.

To learn more about the Oblates, [click here](#). To view a 1-hour documentary on the life of Ven. Fr. Lanteri, [click here](#).



### Happy Birthday Volunteers!

A belated Happy Birthday to our September celebrants including Ginny Akhoury, Irene Bauer, and Mary Ellen Skoviera. A very Happy Birthday to our October birthdays including Katheryn Shay and Emma Tarhalla.

Do you celebrate a September or October birthday and we missed it? Happy Birthday! Please email [handley@olph-retreat.org](mailto:handley@olph-retreat.org) your birthday so we can put it in our database!

If you are interested in volunteering in the Dining Room/Kitchen or Office, please see the current schedule of volunteer needs on the OLPH website: [www.olph-retreat.org/online-volunteer-schedule](http://www.olph-retreat.org/online-volunteer-schedule)

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Simply complete our brief application online and we will get in touch with you: [www.olph-retreat.org/](http://www.olph-retreat.org/)

# Upcoming Events



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## Men's Retreat

**Oct. 15-17, 2021**

Striving to be followers of Jesus and men of virtue in a world that values individualism and self-sufficiency presents unique challenges. In this weekend retreat, Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV will apply the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola - soldier, pilgrim, and saint - to men's life of faith in today's culture. The schedule includes conferences each day, daily Mass, and an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the Retreat Director for confession and/or spiritual direction. A private room and all meals are included. The cost to reserve your spot is \$150, which covers OLPH's cost for room, food, cleaning, and FL state taxes. A free-will donation request will be made by OLPH's Spiritual Director on the last day of the retreat.

To register: [olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration](http://olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration)

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## Ignatian Preached Retreat

**Nov. 19-22, 2021**

This silent retreat will introduce you to the great themes of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in a group setting. The retreat begins on Friday, November 19th with registration starting at 2:00, followed by dinner and the first conference. Over the weekend, an additional five conferences will be held, as well as daily Mass, and an opportunity to meet at least once with the Retreat Director for Confession and/or spiritual direction. The conference topics center on Ignatian spirituality, prayer, and discernment. All meals are provided. A private room is \$460 and a shared room is \$275 (including FL state tax and fees).

To register: [olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration](http://olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration)

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## Advent Retreat

**Dec. 6-7, 2021**

Prepare your heart for Christmas with St. Thérèse of Lisieux. St. Thérèse of Lisieux marked Christmas 1886 as the day of her "complete conversion." This did not involve dramatic changes in what she believed. It only involved little changes in how she lived her very ordinary life. But her Christmas conversion led to the fulfillment of her desire to be a saint. Our 8th annual Advent Retreat will explore some of St. Thérèse's very practical, lived examples of holiness and transformation. Mass is offered each day and Confessions are available. All meals are provided. The cost to reserve your spot is \$100, which covers OLPH's cost for room, food, cleaning, and FL state taxes. A free-will donation request will be made by OLPH's Spiritual Director on the last day of the retreat.

To register: [olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration](http://olph-retreat.org/group-retreat-registration)

**Go to**  
**[www.olph-retreat.org/schedule-of-events](http://www.olph-retreat.org/schedule-of-events)**  
**to view all our events**