

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center

3989 South Moon Drive  
Venice, FL 34292

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

Newsletter

September 2021

## The Master Artist and You

The Artist Michelangelo sculpted a beautiful work of art called the Pietà. The original is in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In 1972, a man who was mentally ill attacked the Pietà with a hammer and inflicted terrible damage on it. Artists from all over the world came to Rome to survey the damage. Slowly—ever so slowly—they began to restore the Pietà to its original beauty.

Something like that happens with us. God has a work of art in mind when He creates each of us. But we get damaged by the blows of sin, both those inflicted by us and those inflicted on us. And at the proper time, God ever so slowly begins to heal the person and make them into what He originally intended them to be.

The deaf man in this Sunday's Gospel (*September 5; Mark 7:31-37*) represents all of us in that sense. He can't speak clearly, and he can't hear. He lives in the "Decapolis," one of the ten cities outside the land of Israel. He is on the edge of life, not even able to communicate. So we want to pay close attention to what Jesus does to him. It represents what He wants to do for each of us.

Jesus puts his finger in the man's ears, spits, then looks up to heaven and groans. Why does Jesus groan? Jesus is feeling what this man has felt—an entire lifetime of frustration that comes from not being able to hear or speak. It's the frustration of every person who has something beautiful inside of them and can't express it—because of sin, disease, deformity, ridicule, and all the other things that were not part of God's original plan, but which came into the world when sin came into the world. We bump up against many of these obstacles while we accompany our retreatants here at OLPH, and we have the privilege of watching as God patiently begins to remove them.

Out of all the human persons who have ever lived, there was only one who was completely "unblocked." We celebrate her birthday on Wednesday of this week (September 8). Everything beautiful that God gave to Mary could shine through completely. She was completely unstained by sin so that her soul "magnified the Lord"—like a lens that is perfectly clear and allows all the light to shine through.

Unlike Mary, for most of us it will take at least a lifetime as God gently, unwearingly works with us, heals us, and restores us to the image that He had in mind when He created us. But we should never give up on ourselves, and we should certainly never give up on Jesus, the master artist.

In Christ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

*Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV*

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### Contact Us (941) 486-0233

Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV ext. 3007  
Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV ext. 3008  
Denise Riley ext. 3004

## Villa IV Floor Replacement



Villa IV, St. William villa, is our largest villa with 10 rooms. It is most often used for large groups and has seen quite a bit of activity over the years. In 2021 alone, this villa accommodated several Cursillo and Emmaus groups, DOV Priests, and most recently a Vietnamese Catholic group that included retreatants from across the U.S. The villa was constructed in 2005 and unfortunately had the original carpeting in the private rooms. Thanks to the generosity of funds from a single donor, we were able to procure new flooring material. Our volunteers, John Meyer and Michael Day, working alongside OLPH's Brian, Chuck, and Ramiro, just completed the flooring installation in this villa's individual rooms at the end of August and they look great!

## New Refrigerator

At OLPH, our private retreatants are provided a self-serve continental breakfast. To accommodate varying wake-up times by different retreatants, we have created a Breakfast Room where retreatants can go for breakfast at leisure. We were in desperate need of a new refrigerator for this room and have since been blessed to have a generous benefactor donate the funds needed. Thank you for your assistance!

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You are cordially invited to the OLPH

# Butterfly Ball

*Saturday, February 19, 2022*

*Chelsea Center @ St. Thomas More, Sarasota*

*6:00 to 10:00 pm*

*Dinner, Entertainment, and Live | Silent Auctions*



On Saturday, February 19, 2022, Bishop Dewane will join Fr. Mark and Fr. Lino in our critical fundraiser event, the **Butterfly Ball**. The effects of COVID resulted in a significant decrease in scheduled group retreats, our main source, which fell off by 45% this past year. This represents a loss of \$130,717 in income. It is our hope that the proceeds from this fundraising event will not only assist us in continuing to provide a place to serve those searching for God, but also to enhance the OLPH Endowment Fund to help subsidize those in need of spiritual help and growth and are unable to pay the full cost of individual and group retreats.

This will be a lovely evening of music from multiple artists, gourmet food (catered by the award-winning Sarasota Catering Company), and exciting trips included in our Live Auction (more details in an upcoming newsletter). We are also starting to receive some very nice items for our silent auction! We hope you can join us at the event!

A very special thank you to **St. William Catholic Church** and **St. Agnes Catholic Church**, located in Naples! They are our first Gold and Silver Sponsor, respectively, in support of the Butterfly Ball fundraiser.

Tickets are \$150 and can be purchased online at: [olph-retreat.org/butterfly-ball-tickets](http://olph-retreat.org/butterfly-ball-tickets). 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 Denise or Simona at (941) 486-0233 or visit our website at: [olph-retreat.org/olph-2022-butterfly-ball](http://olph-retreat.org/olph-2022-butterfly-ball)

## A Shout Out to our Awesome Volunteers!

We could never thank our volunteers enough for their ongoing assistance and dedication! Given our small staff, we simply could not operate OLPH without you. As COVID vaccinations have become more available, we happily have begun to see an increase in retreatants, requiring a greater need for volunteers. A special thank you to all of our volunteers, especially the Dining Room/Kitchen crew that have worked several weekends and early mornings.



In April, we formally started to schedule three additional volunteer groups: Chapel Ministry, Receptionist, and Grounds. If you are interested in volunteering, please send us a note via: [olph-retreat.org/new-volunteer](http://olph-retreat.org/new-volunteer)

## Shrine Dedication

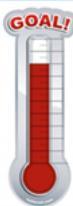
On June 6th, Bishop Frank Dewane dedicated our new Our Lady of Perpetual Help shrine. We were blessed to have beautiful weather. 170 attendees joined us for the dedication and celebratory, complimentary BBQ that followed. We greatly appreciate all who were able to attend, as well as our volunteers who helped the event go so smoothly.



The shrine is prominently located along the path to St. Joseph Chapel. It is a one-ton statue of Mary holding the Child Jesus carved from white marble. It resides within a 15,000 pound limestone niche that was quarried in Coral Bay, Florida. The reverse side of the niche has a crucifix and a plaque dedicated to Fr. Charlie Mallen.

If you were unable to attend, you may want to take a peek at some of the pictures. A link is located on our website home page, under **OLPH Videos:** [olph-retreat.org](http://olph-retreat.org)

## Spring Appeal



Through your generous donations, we were able to raise \$28,238 in our 2021

Spring Appeal. This was the last fundraising event for our 2020-21 fiscal year, as our new fiscal year started July 1, 2021.

It costs approximately \$2,800 per day to operate OLPH. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and allows us to stay open throughout the year to serve those in need.

## Desert Day Retreats

Are you short on time, but would still like a moment away from the complexities of the world to reconnect spiritually? Jesus himself spent time in the desert in prayer with his Father. Consider our 1-Day Individual Desert Day retreats.

This retreat offers a quiet day of reflection for pilgrims looking to spend time with the Lord and contemplate their life and their relationship with God. The day begins with check-in between 1:00-3:00 followed by a meeting with your Spiritual Director and dinner. The following morning, after breakfast, you may again meet with your Director, may attend mass, and have lunch. After lunch, you are welcome to stay and enjoy the peaceful, beautiful grounds of OLPH. The cost for 3 meals, overnight private accommodations, and time with your Director is \$93.50 plus FL tax.

*Interested in a Desert Day Retreat?*

*Please call Denise Riley at (941) 486-0233 ext. 3004*

*"Solitude is the place where man finds God" – Pope St. John Paul II*



## MEMORIAL

Interested in having a Mass said or candle lit for a loved one, deceased friend, or a special intention? You can now request a Mass or memorial candle to be lit via our website. Donation is \$10 for Mass requests and \$5 for a memorial candle.

# Upcoming Events



## Monthly Day of Prayer

This all-day event is offered on the second Wednesday and second Sunday of each month starting in September. The day begins at 9:30 am with continental breakfast and includes two conferences, lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, private meditation and prayer. The day concludes with Mass, ending at 3:15 pm. The cost is \$40.00. Note: the conference topics are the same for the Sunday and Wednesday sessions in each respective month, so please choose the day that is compatible with your schedule.

To register: [www.olph-retreat.org/monthly-day-of-prayer](http://www.olph-retreat.org/monthly-day-of-prayer)

September: 8<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) and 12<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

November: 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) and 14<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

October: 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) and 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

December: 8<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) and 12<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

## 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)

## 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 check-in 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)

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