



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center

3989 South Moon Drive
Venice, FL 34292

www.olph-retreat.org
(941) 486-0233

Newsletter

June 2022

The Need for *Fire*

The story is told of three demons who were interviewed by Satan for promotion to a higher-level position in his kingdom (or, to be more accurate, a *lower*-level position in his kingdom). Satan asked them for the strategy they would use to prevent souls from repenting. The first demon replied, "I will tell them that God does not exist, and so there is no point in repenting." The second said, "No—most humans are still too convinced that God exists. I will tell them that there is no hell, and so there is no need to repent." The third replied, "No—most humans are still too convinced that there is some sort of justice after death. I will just tell them to *wait until tomorrow* to repent."

Guess which demon got the job.

It seems that there is always some reason to postpone the eternally important things until tomorrow. The needs of the body, or as Jesus put it, "worldly anxiety and the lure of riches" press upon us (Mt 13:22); and spiritual things are pushed down our list of priorities. What is needed is *fire*—the fire that ignites us to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," trusting that the other necessary things will be given to us (Mt 6:33).

This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of *fire*—Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit ignited the apostles to preach the truth, including the need to "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38). This *fire* spread quickly across the Mediterranean world and even to the ends of the earth.

What spiritual matter have you been putting off until the tomorrow that never comes? In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, which we offer so often here at OLPH, St. Ignatius of Loyola describes a class of people who desire to save their souls, but "the hour of death comes, and they have not made use of any means" (*Spiritual Exercises*, #153). They become a feather in the cap of the demon whose strategy surpassed his competitors at that infernal interview.

This Sunday, pray for the *fire* of the Holy Spirit, and then do that act of faith that you have been putting off for so long. God's grace is already within you; all it needs is a spark!

In Christ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, OMV

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Monthly Day of Prayer

We concluded our final Monthly Day of Prayer in May.

We will resume in September. [Click here to register](#)

Contact Us

(941) 486-0233

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

Building Updates

Villa Refresh

We continue to apply proceeds from the Butterfly Ball to their intended use of villa refresh and refurbishment. Our dynamite volunteers, John Meyer and Michael Day, assisted by OLPH's Chuck, Ramiro, and Brian have now completed the refresh in Villa I and II! Villa II was completed in May with new flooring and baseboards, new paint, updated window blinds, and new ceiling fans. We also have replaced the outdoor chairs on the front porch of Villa III with four new wicker chairs. Our plan is to complete the refresh of Villa III during the Summer. If you are interested in helping the team with Villa III, please send an email to Denise Riley at riley@olph-retreat.org.



Entrance to villa I

Roof Replacement

Just after Easter, the Diocese commenced an infrastructure project to replace the roof on several of our buildings. The tear down of the Chapel's roof occurred in April. In May, removal of the existing roofs on the *Maxine and Ray Schirmer Dining and Office* building and *Anne Mayer Conference Center* began. Rotted wood has been replaced and new underlayment has been installed. We are now awaiting the metal tile installation. After these building are completed, work will begin to replace the villa roofs.

New Statue Greets Visitors and Guests



A generous donor has provided financial support to OLPH, in addition to funds for a new statue, St. Michael the Archangel. The statue greets guests as they pass our front gates and come to the fork in the road. It is approximately 3 feet tall and stands upon a newly installed pillar, that will be painted white once the cement has fully cured. The statue is framed with new shrubs as a backdrop and flowers in the forefront.

St. Michael the Archangel, whose name means "one who is like God," has a special role to protect the Church and Christians against assaults from Satan. In 1884, Pope Leo XIII wrote the Prayer to Saint Michael. He was inspired by a vision he had when he fell unconscious after celebrating Mass one day. In that vision, evil spirits engaged in a fierce attack against the Lord's church. It is reported that when he woke up from his unconscious state, the Pope said, "What a horrible picture I was permitted to see!" He felt that it was important to compose a prayer to Saint Michael calling for protection.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Feast Day is June 27th

The feast day of Our Lady (Mother) of Perpetual Help is celebrated on June 27th, and so on June 18th we commence our daily novena. A novena is a traditional Catholic prayer that continues for nine days and is intended to ask for a particular favor or blessing—or to give thanks for blessings received.

Let us reflect on the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. As you contemplate the icon, its beauty and meaning will unfold before you.

- Mary's eyes, filled with compassion and love, are directed toward us.
- Our Lady is clothed in the colors of virgins (red) and of mothers (blue). These are also royal colors.
- Jesus, depicted as a young boy, wears the colors of a king.
- The star on Mary's veil reminds us that she is the dawn announcing the coming of Christ.
- Our Lady's left hand holds her Son securely while her right hand directs our gaze to Him.
- The Christ Child grasps His mother's hand as though He is frightened by what He sees.
- In His hurry to reach His mother, Jesus has almost lost one of His sandals.
- On Our Lady's left and right we see the reasons for Jesus' fear. On the right is the Archangel Gabriel, holding a cross and four nails. On the left is the Archangel Michael, holding a lance, a pole with a sponge, and a vessel of vinegar. This vision of the instruments of the crucifixion has driven the Child to His mother's protective embrace.
- Mary's gaze is fixed on us, her children on earth. She is our source of constant comfort and hope.



Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV, will be celebrating Mass at St. Joseph Chapel on **June 27th at 11:15 am** in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Feast Day. In preparation, [click here](#) to view the prayer for each day of the novena, commencing June 18th.

Happy Birthday Volunteers!

Happy Birthday to Joan Gillis, Anne Morris, Marie Kilkenny, Marlene Moss, Geraldine Pate, Anita Piacenta, Nicholas Wood and all volunteers celebrating a birthday in June!



Ways to Give: *Legacy Gifts*

One of the ways you can support OLPH for years to come is through a gift in your estate plan. As you plan for the future of your estate, please consider including OLPH. By designating OLPH as a recipient, you will make a lasting gift that will continue our mission for generations. If you prefer that your gift is applied to a specific area, such as our endowment fund or a capital improvement, and would like to speak to us about our needs, please contact Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV at (941) 486-0233 ext. 3007. As a non-profit organization, your charitable bequest to OLPH can reduce, or even eliminate, the amount of estate or inheritance tax your beneficiaries may owe.



Upcoming Events

Monthly Day of Prayer

The Monthly Day of Prayer sessions resume in September. Here are the dates for the remainder of 2022. You may register online by [clicking here](#).

- September 11th and 14th
- October 9th and 12th
- November 9th and 13th
- December 11th and 14th

The day begins at 9:30 am with continental breakfast and includes two conferences, lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, 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 each session in a respective month, so please choose the day that is compatible with your schedule.

Private, Directed Retreats

On occasion, we may find ourselves discerning something in our lives. Perhaps it is a career change or job loss, getting married, losing a loved one, or dealing with a family illness. Or perhaps you may just need a small amount of time away from the complexities of the world - a moment of peace to reconnect spiritually. A retreat refreshes and revitalizes the soul by providing devoted time spent in prayer and contemplation, under the guidance of a spiritual director.

OLPH offers 1, 3, 5, and 7 night private, directed retreats. Our directed retreats are individualized and are adapted to those in all stages of their faith journey and tailored depending on what you are seeking, the desires of your heart, and where the Lord is leading you. The Fall schedule has been published on our website. [Click here](#) to view the schedule.

Interested in Hosting a Day Retreat for Your Group?

OLPH offers conference facilities, seated dining, and use of our chapel for up to 125 individuals for a single-day retreat that can be led by your parish priest or OLPH's Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV or Fr. Lino Estadilla, OMV.

A variety of topics are offered, as well as a choice of a continental or hot breakfast, and lunch.

The minimum number of participants is 15.

Prices start at \$40 pp.

We are now taking bookings for the Fall and Winter of 2022/2023. To learn more, [click here](#).

You can choose from the following topics or suggest your own!

- ◆ *Healing and Forgiveness*
- ◆ *Seven Capital Vices*
- ◆ *Discernment of God's Will*
- ◆ *The Four Cardinal Virtues*
- ◆ *Introduction to Spiritual Exercises*
- ◆ *Praying with Scripture*
- ◆ *Forgiveness of Self and Others*
- ◆ *The Beatitudes*
- ◆ *Devotion to Mary*
- ◆ *The Four Last Things*
- ◆ *Making Sense of Suffering*