

# OUR VISION

OUR LADY *of* VICTORY  
PARISH

PARISH AND SCHOOL NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2015

## POPE FRANCIS VISITS THE WHITE HOUSE



Pictures taken by Mary Ann Mecher and Genevieve Kenney.  
Please see page 2 for reflections of their visit.

## **Experience of a Lifetime**

### **Mary Ann Mecher**

I had the honor of receiving an invitation to the Arrival Ceremony to welcome the Holy Father to the United States.

Words cannot express how blessed I feel to have had the experience of a lifetime. I was able to be with my grandchild in the presence of Pope Francis. We heard his words of encouragement, as well as his challenges to do what we can to help the poor, take care of the environment, and respect all life. These are all issues that have been near and dear to my heart.



The students and staff at O.L.V. respond to Pope Francis' challenges in many ways. Let's do our best to continue to answer his call to improve the lives of others through our prayers and actions!!

### **A Reflection on Pope Francis's visit to D.C.**

#### **Genevieve Kenney**

We woke up early on Wednesday morning. Our family isn't used to a 5:30 a.m. wake up call but we were on a mission. Up, dressed, and fed, we were walking the streets of Washington, D.C. early enough to see the sun rise. Not a bad morning in and of itself, but we were on our way to see the Pope. My husband, Chris had received an alert from work a week earlier warning people to steer clear of D.C., New York, and Philadelphia unless absolutely necessary due to the papal visit. Intrigued, he checked out Pope Francis's itinerary and found that state senators and representatives were each given a number of tickets to view the Pope's address to the joint session of Congress on the Capitol lawn. It just so happened that Senator Sherrod Brown and Representative Steve Chabot were adding names to a lottery for their tickets. Chris entered our names into both and won four tickets. So there we were about to witness history being made and tour our nation's capitol.

As Pope Francis was mingling in the White House and speaking to an especially lucky group of people, like Mary Ann Mecher, we staked out a front row spot in the far corner of the Elipse. Three hours we waited for the papal parade. We met people from D.C. and were surrounded by others from Mexico and South America. It was calm and thrilling at the same time. Everyone was so excited to get a glimpse of this amazing man. Our children, Elise, 10, and Liam, 5, waited patiently the entire time. Pope Francis was already inspiring miracles! We wrapped our rosaries around our wrists as the moment arrived.

The popemobile rounded the corner and he was right in front of us, maybe 5 feet away. Pope Francis was waving at us and looking directly at the kids. It was indescribable. I wanted so badly to take pictures but I also did not want to witness the event through a lens. A second later he moved down the path and was out of site.

I was in awe. Chris got chills. Elise had a giant smile on her face. Liam wanted another Pope sticker. The kids could not stop talking about how Pope Francis waved right at them. We happily hopped around town the rest of the day visiting national monuments and our local politicians' offices to pick up our tickets for the Capitol address. We awoke early again the next morning and headed to the Capitol building. It seemed like the only people out were those going our way. We made it through security to the lawn. It reminded me of a huge concert but the demographic was much different: old, young, couples, families, clergy, students of all ages, church groups, citizens, immigrants, tourists, and locals. A hodgepodge of people with one thing in common: we all wanted to hear the words Pope Francis would deliver to Congress. Being smack dab in the middle of thousands of people was a little overwhelming so we moved to the back where we could easily see the big screens. We sat on the ground to listen to the slow and deliberate speech of Pope Francis. I closed my eyes as I focused on his voice. His words were warm but stern, like a kind grandfather giving a ferverino. He didn't say anything unlike what we have heard so many times before, but it was how he said it. I couldn't help but agree with every word he was saying. Every word was in the positive. Every word was what we strived to do not only as Christians but as human beings. Days later I read the transcript and his words were even more powerful. I had learned his secret: reaching out to all people in love is not accepting their sins but accepting Jesus Christ.

Politicians are elected to be servants of the people, listening to the voices they represent and making laws accordingly. Disciples of Jesus are meant to serve as well. We are supposed to listen to God's call and carry out His will. We are called to love God and our neighbors. Even though our intentions are pure, sometimes we get so caught up in our own little lives that we forget our mission. Just as we want politicians to stop being concerned with their agenda and petty arguments and do the job we elected them to do, Christ wants us to stop worrying about the trivialities of our lives and take time to be quiet and pray. We need to do what we are meant to do, to love one another. We need to reach out to the poor, the lonely, the forgotten, and the sorrowful in our communities and within our own families. Pope Francis's visit left me with a renewed sense of love and service to every person I encounter. Even a small act like a simple wave to a child can be a lasting reminder of Christ's love.



Congratulations to our new National Junior Honor Society officers: Jackson Kehling, Mitchell Meyer, Marc Crable, and Reece Niederhausen. Students in grades 6 and 7 who meet the high standards of service, leadership, character, citizenship, and scholarship are invited to apply for NJHS. Our induction is in May each year. Thank you to Mrs. DiTullio, our NJHS advisor, and to our faculty council, who enable us to offer this honor and opportunity to our students.



Our eighth graders had a wonderful day of fun and teambuilding at Camp Kern! Thank you to the teachers and parents for making this a great day!

On October 2, we had our WALK for Victory. Our WALK is sponsored by our PTO. It is a wonderfully spirited day of prayer, excitement, and community as students, parents, and teachers walk to raise money for our school. Thank you to Becky Bill, and all of the volunteers, parents, students, and staff who worked together to make our WALK so successful. We raised close to \$23,000. Thank you to everyone for their generosity! What a wonderful blessing for our school community!



As we look forward to early November, some of our upcoming highlights include Dad's Halloween Day in the cafeteria, Red Ribbon Week, All Saints Day, Veteran's Day, and Ambassador activities!

## Rosary Rally Brings Comfort to Mourning Parishioners Bridget Spinney

News came late on a September afternoon that two members of Our Lady of Victory parish had passed away. Our Victory community was truly saddened by the loss of both Kevin Shappelle and Joe Williams. Both were very active members of the parish community and had sons, daughters and grandchildren who attended OLV school. Joe Williams had two grandsons and Kevin had a son who currently plays on the OLV varsity football team and is friends with my son.

That evening, as heartbreak started to sink in, the Ladies of Victory decided to cancel their Thursday meeting. Instead, a group of us thought to hold a Rosary Rally to support the families and football players in their grieving process through prayer. The rosary is very important to both families and I have also found great peace praying the rosary. A great tribute to these two men would be a Rosary Rally in their honor. What better way to spend a sorrowful evening than with family, friends and kids gathered to pray the rosary and give praise to God who called two of His loving children home.



We could not have expected the turn out to be any more AMAZING! Our community came together to give thanks and praise to God for letting us have these men in our lives. As we arrived under the shelter there was definitely a feeling of sadness and loss but I also had a sense of joy and gratefulness. The Holy Spirit took the Rally from something small that was originally planned with a small group of friends to a crowd of football players, families and parishioners offering their support. The coaches cut practice short and asked the team to take a knee as Mark Machuga graciously lead everyone in the rosary. It was one of the most moving things I have been apart of. I LOVED seeing God at work and got to be along for the ride. I felt blessed to be surrounded by this community. Our parish came together in a time of need to support one another. The love from each and every person that attended or was there in spirit could be felt by all.

## It starts with a Gift, but it is so much more! OLV Giving Tree

Angela Aull

This season we have the chance to give the Hope of Christmas to families in need. Once again, we invite you and your family to participate in the OLV Giving Tree Project. Beginning **November 21<sup>st</sup>** you will find two trees fully decorated with ornaments in Church. These ornaments represent individuals and families in need. The “giving tree” has been successful for many years, thanks to the generous spirit at OLV. Below is a brief description of the various agencies our Giving Tree supports.



**St. Vincent de Paul:** St. VDP's mission is to answer Christ's call. St. VDP provides names of families residing in Delhi in need of assistance for the Christmas season. *In 2014, 21 families (68 individuals) received gifts from OLV's giving tree.*

**Community Land Co-op:** The Community Land Co-op's mission is to empower families with low and medium incomes to own homes in the West End and neighboring communities. The monetary donations collected assist individuals in paying their utility bills, cover costs of minor repairs etc. *In 2014, \$790 was donated on behalf of OLV.*

**Healthy Moms and Babes:** Healthy Moms & Babes is a non-profit, community based organization rooted in the Catholic Social Teachings, serving at-risk, low-income women and children. The pink and blue “B” ornaments represent this organization in which we collect baby items/clothes for infants less than one year of age. *In 2014, 31 gifts were donated on behalf of*

*OLV.*

**West-End Communities:** The majority of the ornaments on the tree are names of children from the West-End. These children attend various centers including YMCA Christ Child Day Care, Youthland Day Care, and ParkTown. *In 2014, 392 gifts were donated on behalf of OLV.*

**Extras:** The giving tree also contains ornaments requesting items such as gloves, hats and blankets which are donated to various organizations in need. In addition, parishioners have been known to drop off “extra gifts” in which those are used when a gift is not returned. In 2014, we had 10 gifts not returned, but thanks to the “emergency shoppers” and the “extra gifts” we were able to fulfill all the requests.

### NEW for 2015

**Adopt a Family:** We will be trying out something new this year. The names we receive from St. VDP generally are families that we put on the tree as individuals. If you are able to take more than one ornament, or are part of a group planning to make a large gift donation, consider adopting a family. The family sizes last year ranged from 2-6 people. We will have these ornaments bundled together, if interested in adopting a family, see a giving tree volunteer in the main atrium of Church before and after Mass on Nov 21-22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Return weekends:** There will only be two weekends to return gifts this year; Nov 28-29 and Dec 5-6. **Mark your calendar:**

**All gifts must be returned by 12:30 on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>!**

## Finance Commission Corner

Dave Haller

Stewardship Sunday was in late September. Tom Butler, Finance Commission Chair gave a quick review of the Parish Finances. As you may recall each family was asked to complete a Stewardship form. The brochure discussed the three aspects of Stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure.



Time was described as “Spending time with God in prayer”. This can be accomplished in many ways such as attending Mass, praying the Rosary, going to confession, or spending time in personal prayer. Talent is using your talents in the Parish Ministries. This includes Liturgical and Musical Ministries, Commissions, Committees, and other Organizations.

Treasure was noted as “Making a consistent gift to the Offertory”. The important word in that definition is “consistent”. Of course any gift to the Parish is valued and important to Our Lady of Victory, but consistent weekly (monthly, quarterly) contributions are the backbone of the Parish budget. These

pledges to Our Lady of Victory are used to create and project the budget for the current and subsequent years.

A missed contribution does not feel like a big deal, but it does add up. As an example, a typical one week vacation that spans two Sundays can make a big difference, if those contributions are missed. This represents almost 4% of an annual contribution. Again not much on an individual basis, but a 4% shortfall from everyone would make significant difference on the revenue side.

There are two ways to keep track of your contributions. The envelope system works well as a manual method of ensuring that your financial pledge is complete. We also offer an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) contribution option. EFT is an easy way to guarantee that a contribution will not be missed. The EFT can be a transfer from a bank account or a credit card charge. Everyone knows that credit cards are a great way to collect loyalty points. See the OLV website for the details and opt in process.

Please consider the EFT as your contribution method to Our Lady of Victory.

## Parish Council

Tom Bier

It is a great time to be an Our Lady of Victory parishioner. On the heels of this year's successful Festival and Parish Picnic, Fridays at the Fields just ended a very successful eight-week run where parishioners of all ages came together at the fields to catch some great soccer. There was also some terrific food, fellowship and lots of fun.

Working together, our Athletic Association and PTO recently came together to bring us the outstanding new Spirit Shop with so many more terrific spirit wear options.

We are mapping out plans for 2017 when OLV will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 175 years!!! This is a big deal, as there are not many parishes in the country that can say they have been around since 1842. Some of plans for this year-long celebration currently include the Church renovations funded by your generosity from the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Archdiocesan campaign, exploring the feasibility of adding Pre-School, and also the Legacy Project. Much like the parishioners that came before us who had the vision to build a new gym, Field 5 (the best 9U baseball field in the city), and the Convocation Center, the Legacy Project wants to leave our generation's stamp on our fabulous campus by possibly adding a playground, outdoor classroom, grotto and more. In addition to all of this, the various Parish Commissions and Groups are working together towards the common vision of making Our Lady of Victory the best it can be.

In other words, our aim is to make our parish even stronger and more vibrant for the next 175 years. Again, it's a great time to be an Our Lady of Victory parishioner. I welcome you to get involved and be part of it all.

## ESAP Tuition Assistance Challenge Matt O'Neill

A very generous ESAP tuition assistance challenge match is being offered again this year by the Hubert Family ESAP program. Last year the George Hubert Jr. Family Foundation offered a match of \$1.50 for each dollar you contribute, up to \$10,000. The same match is being offered again this year. That means that Our Lady of Victory School could receive \$25,000 for tuition assistance if our parishioners and school families donate \$10,000 for tuition assistance. We need to raise this \$10,000 by December 6, 2015. To contribute, send your check made out

"OLV Tuition Assistance" to the parish office. Write "ESAP tuition assistance" on an envelope and "ESAP"



on the memo line of your check. Do not use the tuition assistance envelopes in your packet. Any donation is tax deductible so please be generous and help us reach the \$10,000 to obtain the maximum match. Your generosity enabled Our Lady of Victory School to earn the full match last year, making your contribution 150% more. Thank you for your support of Catholic education in our parish.

### USHERS NEEDED

**At 4:30 9:30 & 11:15 Masses  
Contact Kenneth Burger 347-3137**

## Relics: Our Connection to the Communion of Saints

Jarred Kohn

What are Relics? A Relic is a part of a saint's body or belongings kept as an object of veneration and remembrance. Perhaps your own family does something similar to this ancient practice. Namely family heirlooms, I know of many families who have a locket from a grandmother or watch from a grandfather that is passed down from generation to generation. This is similar to the ancient Christian practice of venerating relics. Relics remind of us the saint they were a part of/belonged to. Relics make the connections and relationships we have with the saints more real and more personal. Much like the shoe shining kit I inherited from my grandfather reminds me of him every time I use it.

We see an example of the power objects belonging to holy people have in the gospel when the woman with a hemorrhage approaches Jesus and says to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." (Matthew 9:21) When she does touch His cloak she is healed. Jesus feels the power go out from Himself. Relics show that saints too share in Jesus' power to heal.

Further, relics are also something we as Catholics call sacramental, which "are sacred signs instituted by the Church. They prepare men to receive the fruit of the sacraments and sanctify different circumstances of life." (CCC 1677) Essentially relics are meant to direct to a fuller understanding and participation in the sacraments. Relics also bring our faith to life by acting as connections to our friends in heaven, they remind us of their stories letting us know that they are praying for us, that we too may one day join in their joy in heaven.

In the month of November starting on All Souls day we will have a display of relics in the chapel connected to the main body of the church, lent to us by Deacon Charley Jenkins. Please do not hesitate to stop by and say hello to some of your favorite saints and perhaps discover a connection with some new saints as well. I hope to have a complete list of all the relics by that time. This would be an excellent opportunity for our Confirmation candidates in the parish to explore the possibilities of who to choose as their Confirmation saints. Please do not hesitate to stop and ask me about relics.



*Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.  
1 John 3:18*

So, you are having “one of those days”. Nothing seems to be going right, then as you arrive home after work, you see a tray of freshly baked cookies on your front porch. A smile washes over your face. This one, small random act changed your attitude, even if only for a few minutes. You are new to the parish and you are not quite sure how you fit into this new community. You get a card in the mail welcoming you to the parish with a comforting scripture verse. A warm feeling fills your heart and you feel like you have found a home. Imagine if these random acts of kindness happened more frequently.



Last year, the OLV Helping Hands committee was formed. The members of Helping Hands are devoted to the well-being of the parish community and its members. We are dedicated to cultivating a warm and inviting environment around the parish and school. In an effort to create this environment and bring our community members closer, we began doing Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) for parishioners.

What is a Random Act of Kindness? A **random act of kindness** is a selfless **act** performed by a person or people wishing either to assist or to cheer up an individual person or people. The RAK ideas could be as simple as writing a note to a parishioner stating you are praying for them, dropping off homemade cookies, introducing yourself to someone new in the parish, or sharing your favorite scripture. Another great example is the OLV Leaf Bandits secret service project that was introduced to the students in October.



We are asking parishioners to step out of their normal routine and stretch their comfort zone.

Help us continue to develop the OLV community into an even more amazing OLV family.

Every little expression of kindness is a demonstration of Christ's love. We invite all parishioners to join us on this journey of creating a more inclusive parish community.

If you are ready to become part of OLV RAK or have any questions, send an email to [OLVHelpingHands@gmail.com](mailto:OLVHelpingHands@gmail.com) or you can call or send a text to 513-703-9140 (Melanie Broxterman). We would love to have at least 10 RAK ready to bless our community for Worldwide Random Acts of Kindness Day, November 13, 2015! You can also visit the Helping Hands page on the OLV website: <http://parish.olv.org/District/Portal/101-Helping-Hands> for more information.

Thank you for your commitment to creating a warm, inviting and supportive OLV community!

## The Spirit Shop Is Open

Becca Sontag



Now it's easier than ever to show off your Victory pride in support of the school and parish! Our Lady of Victory School is now home to the Spirit Shop, located in the Library Building, where school and athletic spirit wear is available for purchase. New uniform-approved styles, such as the 3/4 zip navy sweatshirt with the OLV logo, help insure that the kids (hi kids!) will actually wear their sweatshirts instead of freezing in the name of fashion. In addition to uniform staples such as gym approved shorts, you'll also find stylish activewear for adults branded with the OLV logo for showing your love of Victory far and wide, and of course, the pajama pants are super-cute, too.

Store hours will be available based on need and availability. For store hours, be sure to check school and church newsletters and bulletins as they will be posted there. Also, for students looking to fill service hour obligations, this is an excellent opportunity to help out your parish community!

As the store is still new, its story is still evolving. The idea of the Spirit Shop was first developed by devoted volunteer, parishioner, and school mom, Suzanne Crable two years ago. Suzanne, being in charge of spirit wear distribution and orders, saw the obvious benefits of an efficient shop to centralize and simplify the shopping process. Through a collaborative effort between the PTO, the Athletic Association, and school administration, the Spirit Shop has opened its doors with more regular hours expected in the future. Stay tuned for new hours, new offerings, and more information as it becomes available for the Spirit Shop, one of our newest Victory resources.

### ***Memorial Mass Fund***

*Eleanor Becker*

*Carol Bell*

*Kenneth Ganote*

*Vera Jacobs*

*Angela Kuenzler*

*David Reder*

*Joseph Williams*

### ***Tuition Assistance***

*Margaret Rapier*

*Joseph Williams*

*Jacqueline Zimmer*

### ***Food Pantry***

*Kenneth Ganote*

*Joseph Williams*

### ***In Loving Memory***

*Mary Boerschig*

*Kenneth Ganote*

*Angela Kuenzler*

### ***New Parishioners***

*Thomas & Aron Back*

*Jonathan & Laura Cavanaugh*

*Adam & Kirby O'Brien*

*Edward Powers & Heather Witt*

*Adam & Amanda Rankin*

*Ryan & Kerry Sullivan*

### ***Baptisms***

*Clark Patrick Cappel - child of  
Patrick & Debra Cappel*

*Hayden Francis, Georgia Elizabeth -  
children of Daniel & Kati Hageman*

*Lytic Sophia Weller - child of  
Kevin & Danielle Weller*

### **OUR LADY OF VICTORY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**

The Memorial Association is another way of remembering family members and friends who have died. One Mass a month for a year is offered for those enrolled. All donations provide seasonal church decorations and furnishings.

During the month of November our OLV Book of Remembrance is placed in the atrium of the church. The book is inscribed with the names of all those enrolled in the OLV Memorial Association since 1983.

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND**

The Tuition Assistance Fund has been established to help OLV parishioners afford a Catholic education for their families.

### **Food Pantry for All: From Pope to Playmates**

**Jennifer Reinkemeyer**

Last month, the United States witnessed an historic moment in its history: a visit by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the World Meeting of Families and the first time a pope has addressed a joint session of Congress. In honor of the pontiff's visit and inspired by his call to end world hunger by the year 2025, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati began the "Food for All" Campaign, with the goal to present to the pope a pledge of 1 million food items to be given to those in need over the next year.

Every parish in the Archdiocese was invited to participate in the effort, and could even simply pledge items that come from established food pantries or drives that the parishes already run on a regular basis. Here at Our Lady of Victory, our food pantry runs nearly 50 weeks out of the year, routinely providing bags of food to local families who could use some extra help.

When the "Food for All" campaign began, we knew that our very own food pantry would be a great place to find our pledge to help the Archdiocese meet the goal. With some help from the dedicated food pantry volunteers, we were able to estimate that over the next year we will donate over 14,400 food items to those in need! This includes the regular Tuesday pick-ups, along with the many, many bags that are given out for holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

With a little help from Our Lady of Victory and all the generous donations from our parishioners each year, we were able to help the Archdiocese meet their 1 million item goal to present to Pope Francis. The final tally was 1,055,474 items pledged to those in need!

### **One Small Act of Kindness, One Big Gesture**

Here is just one story of the many, many people who donate to our food pantry. Pictured here are the Banta kids: Chloe, Meghan and Nicholas. The kids all have birthdays around the same time, so they throw one big party at the end of the summer to celebrate. Last year, the family decided that with all the blessings around them, it was time to embrace the spirit of giving, and rely a little less on receiving. Instead of personal gifts for the party, guests were invited to bring a donation for the food pantry that would later be delivered by the kids. Chloe, Meghan and Nicholas have truly embraced the project, never complaining about having less for themselves. "I am very proud of them," said Lisa Banta, the kids' mom, "especially when they say things like, 'I hope we can help out the people who come to the food pantry again next year!'"



Thank you to all those who donate and volunteer to keep our parish food pantry running year round. You are helping us to live our Christian mission to support those in our community who need assistance!

**Our Lady of Victory**  
**810 Neeb Rd.**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45233**

*Our Lady of Victory Parish is a part of the Roman Catholic Church, which we believe is the institutional continuation of the church founded by our Lord Jesus Christ when he sent out his apostles after his resurrection with these instructions: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son,*



*and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to carry out all that I have commanded of you, and know that I am with you always, until the end of the world." By the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, members of the church are promised eternal life and are equipped to serve God and their neighbor, according to the gifts and talents which each of them have received. In this way, we worship God in Spirit and Truth and welcome his Kingdom into our hearts and into the world.*

Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.

Daily Mass: 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays: 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:30 p.m.

513-922-4460

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## DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PARISH APP!

Our new Our Lady of Victory App is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week. Enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession and much more.



Download our app today at [myParish.com](http://myParish.com) or search your phone's App store for my parish.

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Deadline is 9 a.m. the 10th of each month, except Dec. and June.

Articles and information can be emailed to [baweber@olv.org](mailto:baweber@olv.org)

Becky Weber, Editor

If you would like more information about what is happening at Our Lady of Victory, please visit our website [www.olv.org](http://www.olv.org)