

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED THAT A PERSON TOOK AND SOWED IN A FIELD.

IT IS THE SMALLEST OF ALL THE SEEDS, YET WHEN FULL-GROWN IT IS THE LARGEST OF PLANTS."

MATTHEW 13:31-32



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**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 JULY 19, 2020**

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Mass of Anticipation for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM Cornelius J. & Rita C. Sullivan & C.J. Sullivan, III-Mem.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 10:30AM Eda Pascarella—Memorial

MONDAY, JULY 20

Weekday; St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
 7:30AM Yolande Dayde—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Weekday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Kathryn Piotrowicz—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

St. Mary Magdalene
 7:30AM D'cd of Mattola & DelVicario Families—Memorial

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Weekday: St. Bridget, Religious
 7:30AM Fr. Jack Heaney—Memorial

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Weekday; St. Sharbel Makhluif, Priest
 7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

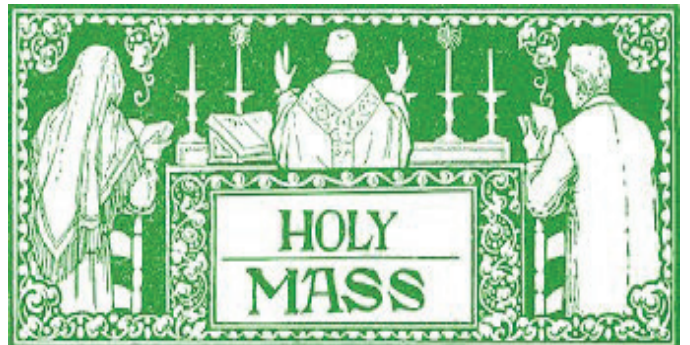
SATURDAY, JULY 25

St. James, Apostle
 8:30AM Rose Bruzzese—71st Anniversary

Mass of Anticipation for 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM Paul Lamoureux—17th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JULY 26

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Martha & Gottlob Loeffler—Memorial
 10:30AM Marie Enander—10th Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

On Monday morning, I was surprised to read about myself and Our Lady of Mercy in the Providence Journal. In the Political Scene column by reporter Katherine Gregg, a listing of lobbyists and elected officials who received loans from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) included me and OLM.

The PPP was enacted by the Trump Administration and Congress to protect jobs. The recipients of the program include all kinds of businesses, non-profits, and other institutions, including many in the Catholic Church.

It is a program to keep people working and paid during the unprecedented crisis of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The PPP's purpose is to sustain the economy and ensure workers stay employed. The amount of each loan is based upon the number of employees and the cost of salaries and benefits.

Our Lady of Mercy Church benefited from the program, and it is a matter of public record. OLM employs 44 full and part-time employees in both our parish and school. We received a PPP loan of \$400,000 to cover the costs of our employees' salaries, healthcare, and pension benefits for two months.

As a result of the closing of Churches and schools, we had a sharp decline in income. This program enabled us to keep our employees paid and working. None of our OLM employees were furloughed or laid off.

Our biggest OLM School fundraiser, "the Spring Fling," was canceled due to the

pandemic. Many of our school families faced financial hardship during the pandemic, and tuition payments had to be suspended. Also, our weekly church collection continues to decline due to the crisis

However, our outstanding OLM School teachers worked overtime during the height of the pandemic with the distance learning classes. I was grateful they could be paid. Also, as a result of the PPP, our OLM Outreach efforts to the poor, especially in time of crisis, continues. So does the increased maintenance work by our staff to sanitize and make our plant safe and hygienic.

The Catholic Church, overall, is one of the largest employers in the State of Rhode Island. The Diocese of Providence also benefited from the PPP. The annual Catholic Charity Appeal began as the pandemic broke out. As a result, it raised little toward the annual goal of \$7 Million.

The CCA helps to fund the many employees who administer the daily support and charitable work the Catholic Church provides to the poor, the sick, the aged, the migrants, the refugees and the needy of our state. It provides critical services and assistance to the vulnerable and needy.

Following some national news stories on the Catholic Church receiving PPP loans, Archbishop Coakley, Chair of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice, offered a response and it is in this week's bulletin. He says in part:

"The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental supplier of social services in the

United States. The novel coronavirus only intensified the needs of the people we serve and the demand for our ministries. The loans we applied for enabled our essential ministries to continue to function in a time of national emergency."

I admit that I was genuinely perplexed at the purpose of Ms. Gregg's column last Monday. After all nothing illegal or unethical occurred. What did happen was that many diverse groups benefited from a program designed precisely to help them, and that had the full backing and support of Congress. Is it newsworthy that faith groups also benefited from a program designed to help them and others in times of national crisis?

I am genuinely grateful that the PPP is available to aid all faith communities. However, many didn't want church groups, especially the Catholic Church, to benefit from this program. Not surprising in our increasingly secular society that is hostile to organized religion. Some of the opposition is a clear reminder that the Anti-Catholic Know-Nothings of the 19th Century still exist today.

Thankfully both the Administration and the U.S. Congress know the critical need and clearly understand the value of faith communities to the common good of our nation. We are grateful they do, and thank them! Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good! God Bless.

Father Healey

Ask Father

What is Detraction?

A word can have powerful influence in the culture, even when a word is not precisely defined. In our day and age that word is “transparency.” We hear calls for transparency both inside and outside of the Church, from the movie sets of Hollywood, to the boardroom, and perhaps eventually (if we are not careful) to the confessional. “Transparency” could be considered jargon because of its varied interpretation and indeterminate application. Jargon is dangerous precisely because it is indeterminate and its definition changes (inconsistently) from person to person.

Hence in the Screwtape Letters, Screwtape advises Wormwood that “Jargon, not argument, is your best ally in keeping him from the Church.” How far does confidentiality extend? When and what material qualifies for confidentiality or transparency? Who is exempted from transparency? How much of our personal lives and sins are open for discussion? Worryingly, while there have been calls and legislation for Church transparency very little legislation has been brought forth regarding transparency in public schools or political institutions. Hence transparency could be a dangerous tool to destroy reputations and institutions. And as a strategy it is still too new to see if it really serves as a solution to the perennial problems of human sinfulness. More often than not we like transparency when it applies to everyone but ourselves.

“Transparency” does not appear once in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. One word, however, which does appear is detraction. The Catechism defines detraction as “[the disclosure] of another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them... without [an] objectively valid reason” (2477). Such disclosure damages the reputation and honor of one’s neighbor. It is a sin against the 8th Commandment, which tells us not to misrepresent the truth against others. The sin can be either venial or mortal depending on the circumstances. As a sin detraction offends against both justice and charity. This is because a person has a natural right to the honor of his name and reputation. Notice that in detraction the information revealed may actually be true or at least honestly considered true by the detractor. Meanwhile, calumny is the sin which damages another’s reputation using false information.

In order to avoid detraction we need an objectively valid reason to reveal a hidden fault. One may reveal a hidden fault for the purpose of preventing harm or protecting the person or others. For instance a teacher or counselor may reveal that a child is having suicidal thoughts to a parent so that the parent may get help for the child. One may also reveal what has become known through courts of law, provided that such information is true and notorious. Criminals should be known for the sake of and in view of the public welfare. Revealing criminal acts simply for the sake of revealing them does not justify disclosure. Indiscriminate disclosure of criminal information should not be disclosed, however, so as to not jeopardize the reputation of other persons belonging to the same group or organization.

Weekly Collection

July 12, 2020

Weekly.....	\$6,536.00
EFT.....	\$4,576.00
	Total=\$11,112.00
Outreach.....	\$762.00
	Weekly for same week last year on July 14, 2019
Weekly.....	\$12,825.00

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



OLM Parish Office Hours

**Monday—Thursday
8:00am –4:00pm
Closed on Fridays during
July & August**

Due to Covid-19 safeguards, public admittance to the OLM Parish Office is limited. Please call ahead for Mass cards and spiritual bouquets.



In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of **John J. Durnin, Jr. and Maureen F. Burgess** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated at OLM.

Rest In Peace

Outreach Update

• OLM Food Pantry is in need of food and paper goods for many members of our local community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House.

Thank you for your support!

• If you are in need of food or financial assistance please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 (leave a message if not in) or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



OLM School Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00am— 1:00 pm

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Confessions at OLM

Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM

Confessions on Saturdays have been suspended until further notice to allow for Church cleaning and sanitizing.

For Confession by appointment please call the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 to contact a priest to schedule an appointment.

*Congratulations
To
The
Newly Baptized*

Xander Joseph Hazard,
and his parents, Harold and Kristen.

“Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He is now called the child of God, for so indeed he is. In confirmation he will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion he will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his Father in the midst of the Church.”

—The Rite of Baptism

Bishop Chairman Comments on Paycheck Protection Program

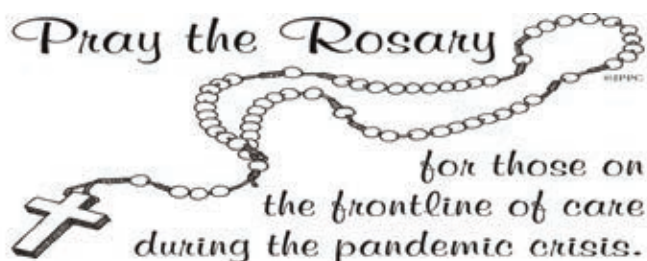
Following the publication of a national news story on Catholic churches receiving loans through the Paycheck Protection Program, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the following statement in response:

“The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental supplier of social services in the United States. Each year, our parishes, schools and ministries serve millions of people in need, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. The novel coronavirus only intensified the needs of the people we serve and the demand for our ministries. The loans we applied for enabled our essential ministries to continue to function in a time of national emergency.

In addition, shutdown orders and economic fallout associated with the virus have affected everyone, including the thousands of Catholic ministries -- churches, schools, healthcare and social services -- that employ about 1 million people in the United States. These loans have been an essential lifeline to keep hundreds of thousands of employees on payroll, ensure families maintain their health insurance, and enable lay workers to continue serving their brothers and sisters during this crisis.

The Paycheck Protection Program was designed to protect the jobs of Americans from all walks of life, regardless of whether they work for for-profit or non-profit employers, faith-based or secular. Despite all of this, more than 100 Catholic schools have announced that they plan to close, with hundreds more facing an uncertain future. Businesses, hospitals, schools, and churches all across the country are facing many of the exact same problems.

We will continue advocating for everyone negatively affected by this terrible pandemic, praying for all the sick, for all who have died and are in mourning, and especially the poor and vulnerable at this time of great need.”



Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain. The power of pray is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller, or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629 or email directly at 2hart@cox.net. ***If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!***

The power of prayer at work!



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