My Dear Parishioners,

One of the most beautiful words in the English language is the word “peace”. Peace is one of the highest values for most people in our world. Without peace, nothing is possible. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that respect for and development of human life requires peace. Our Catechism defines the virtue of peace as follows:

“Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of power between adversaries. Peace is the tranquility of order. Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among people, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 2304).

Peace places demands upon us. If we wish to be effective messengers of peace, three things are necessary: We have to have peace within ourselves, we must be willing to share that peace with others; and the other person has to be willing to receive the gift of peace from us. Today’s scripture readings remind us of the importance and the necessity of peace within in our family and communities. Our readings also challenge us to be God’s messengers of peace.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah describes a time in Jewish history right after the Babylonian exile. Recall that the Jews had turned away from God and Isaiah did all he could to get them to return back to God but they resisted. In the end, Jerusalem fell into the hands of her enemies and her lands and homes were in ruins. Her people were taken away into exile and became the slaves of the Babylonians for fifty years. Consequently, they became discouraged and depressed. But now all that is in the past. As we hear in today’s passage God encourages His people with messages of comfort, hope and peace through the voice of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah twice repeats God’s invitation to exult and rejoice because God did not bring them home from exile to merely abandon them.

Today’s passage is an oracle poem filled with images of new life. Isaiah reassures the Israelites that God will reach out to comfort them and give them new life. The family bond between God and His people will be renewed. Isaiah uses a mother/child imagery to convey his message. Jerusalem will become like a mother once again, nurturing and caring for her children (“nursing her infants, carrying them in her arms and bouncing them on her knees”). This same maternal metaphor characterizes God’s love and care for His people. Isaiah then uses a water image to describe Jerusalem’s life-giving properties. God promises that peace, prosperity, and riches will flow into the Jerusalem like a river. All this is in stark contrast to the suffering and pain that came when the people did not live by the terms of their covenant with Him (Is. 48:18). Without God Israel was lifeless like an abandoned field but now they will flourish like countless blades of grass. The power of God will shine forth from the restored Jerusalem and the people of God will rejoice!

Paul’s letter to the Galatians reminds us that we find our boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The centrality of the cross has turned the world upside down. By the great act of self-renunciation and sacrifice, begun in the Incarnation and fulfilled on Calvary, Jesus became peace for us; He inscribed our names in the Book of Life. When we immerse ourselves in that most fundamental fact, and live out of it, we become free people. Thus faith in the power of Jesus’ cross, not circumcision, effects membership in the people of God. Thus women and men from every race and ethnic origin are welcome in God’s kingdom.

From the beginning of His ministry spreading the word about the Kingdom of God was at the top of Jesus’ priority list. Jesus began preaching that the Kingdom of God was near, indeed, “at hand.” The good news of God’s presence in the world was the primary work given to His Twelve Apostles (Luke 9:1-6) when He sent them out. Later, as Luke records in today’s Gospel passage, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples to continue spreading His message about the kingdom and the peace that is present there. While the second sending is similar to the first, it seems intent on expanding the ministry to the broader world. Thus there is a need for more disciples. As official witnesses, they are sent out in pairs.
The context for today’s Gospel passage is Luke’s description of Jesus’ final journey to Jerusalem (one that takes 10 chapters 9:51-19:27). A very significant aspect of this journey is that Jesus uses it to instruct His disciples regarding the concept of true discipleship. In a real sense it is a catechism on discipleship. However this time the number of disciples has been expanded to seventy-two, in number symbolizing universality and completeness. Jesus uses two metaphors to represent the mission of the seventy-two disciples: “harvest” and “lams among wolves.” The harvest imagery brings to mind the nearness of the end-time when all things will be gathered together. The seventy-two disciples are to gather up the fruits of the work of others. Still, the field of ministry is threatening and the disciples themselves are vulnerable as lambs among wolves. Therefore Jesus’ disciples must be shrewd and clearly focused and nothing can be allowed to divert their attention from the mission at hand. Therefore, Jesus directives to the seventy-two are practical: travel in pairs, travel light, don’t dawdle, don’t fuss over accommodations, and eat and drink what is offered to them. They are to trust in God and depend upon the hospitality of those to whom they go. The seventy-two are to proclaim peace to the place where they stay and, if their peace is accepted, they are to remain there and not roam around looking for a better place. Once situated, their work was to do what Jesus did: heal the sick and preach the advent of the kingdom of God. There is to be no arguing over this proclamation. If there was no interest and the message is not accepted, they are to move on and let any judgment rest with God.

Luke concludes today’s Gospel passage by stating the mission of the seventy-two was successful and they were quite pleased with themselves. They had realized the real power that is contained in doing things in Jesus’ name. They were so effective in their witness and in subjugating the demons that Jesus admits even He saw Satan falling from the sky at their hand. Nevertheless, Jesus warns them that they should not become too enamored with this new power they have experienced. After all, it comes from God and is not their own. As important as were the wondrous deeds they performed, more wondrous is the fact that they are members of God’s kingdom and their names will be inscribed in His book!

We can find peace by listening to and following the words the writer Dante put over the door to heaven: “In His will is our peace.” Peace in the final analysis means oneness with God’s will! The search for true peace must begin with individuals then radiate out to family, community, nation and the world. Peace isn’t a given; it has to be continually worked for, and worked at. It is not enough that we proclaim peace and become peacemakers; we must be peace. If one has not yet found God’s deep peace then they must take the first step of praying for a heart to welcome it. When that is achieved they will have peace of mind, heart and soul, even in a world of imperfection. May all of us be free of discouragement, impatience, and anger in failure in our efforts for peace, and be sincere, humble, and wise in seeking it. May all of us realize that peace-seeking and peace-making be a high priority in our daily lives. Have a blessed and peace-filled week.

My love, prayers and peace,

Fr. John

SUMMER SCHEDULE
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 8
7:00 ✝Jeff Eisenbise

Tuesday, July 9, St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and Companions, Martyrs
7:00 ✝Gerald J. Kennedy

Wednesday, July 10
7:00 ✝Clyde Young
9:00 Leone Family

Thursday, July 11, St. Benedict, Abbot
7:00 ✝Fr. Paul Bryan

Friday, July 12
7:00 ✝Bernie Tomassetti

Saturday, 13, St. Henry
9:00 ✝Jim Mondo
5:00 ✝Anne Fee & Susan Talimo

Sunday, 14 July, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 ✝Adriana Joy Fittipaldi
11:00 ✝William Jeffrey

SANCTUARY LAMP
You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for a sick or deceased loved one for a donation of $5 to defray the cost of the candles. This week the candle burns for Irwin Hornberger.
ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

If the Galatians embraced circumcision, they would be perpetuating the old division between Jew and Gentile that Jesus had come to destroy. Not only that, but they would be feeding the lie that Jesus belongs only to a certain class or type of people. “There is neither Jew nor Greek,” Paul told them, “there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”. This is one of the most powerful truths of our faith: in Christ, every division is wiped out. Being a Christian is not a matter of deciding who is “in” and who is “out.” Neither are there different “levels” or “classes” of believers. There’s only everybody. We are all equally sinners who are equally loved by God and forgiven by the cross. The question is whether we will accept this salvation and let God’s love heal our divided hearts and change our divisive actions.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. After the period of one month their names will be removed. For example, names announced in the bulletin the third week of the month will be removed the third week of the following month. If at that time prayers are still needed, please feel free to contact the parish office, and we will be more than happy to re-publish your loved one’s name.


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**RE-Registration Forms For The 2019/2020 RE Year Were Mailed Out The Week Of June 23rd.**

OMPH RE Not Only Needs Our Mother’s Perpetual Help, But Your Help As Well!

Please Consider Joining The Exciting Adventure Of Passing On Our Wonderful Catholic Faith To The Next Generation By Assisting The RE Program As A Catechist, Aide Or Occasional Substitute.

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The Religious Education Office If You Are Interested In Volunteering For The 2019/2020 RE Year. Thanks!

**Please Note: All RE Program Volunteers Must Have Their Required Diocesan Clearances Which Can Be Easily Obtained Through The RE Office.**

Email: omphreled@dejazzd.com
Phone: 717-738-4517
Kelly Lawrence
YEARLINGS NEWS
We will meet at Fiorentino’s Restaurant, 600 Airport Road, Lititz on July 9 at 11:30 AM. Please call Gloria at 717-728-9098.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
OMPH Vacation Bible School is looking for volunteers!! IF you are an adult or teen who likes working with kids or crafting, building sets, we have a job for you! Please consider sharing your gifts and talents with the children of our parish.
VBS will be held July 14-18 from 5:45 to 8:20 p.m. We can use help for the whole week, a few days or even help ahead of time cutting out decorations or even working on bigger projects. Any questions please call Carolyn at 799-8222 or email carolyn@ensingerprinting.com

PARISH SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Come See Why OMPH Catholic School is the Right Choice for You!

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School will be offering personal school tours throughout the summer. OMPH School is currently accepting new students for the 2019-20 school year in grades Preschool 3 through 8th. The Preschool program, for children who are 3 and 4 years old by September 1st, provides developmentally appropriate activities in a nurturing environment and offers an afternoon enrichment program. Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1st, provides daily Religion class along with skill development in Language Arts and Math and special classes in computer, library, physical education, art, and music. Students in grades 1 through 8 experience an education noted for academic excellence. An on-site after school program is also available. Come see what makes OMPH Catholic School different than the rest! Call the School Development Office at 717-738-2414 ext. 3 for more information!

The Faculty of OMPH extends congratulations to graduates of OMPH School and members of OMPH Parish who were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement at LCHS. We are very proud of our students who received honors for the fourth quarter of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Distinguished Honors: Anthony Andrew, Alexis Baker, Ella Cassidy, Kevin Draeger, Caroline Erb, Jacob Fertal, Erin Haldeman, Rachel Houser, Emma Kirchner, Daniel Leonard, Ava McTamney-Prexta, Connie Quagliata, Riley Smith, Isabelle Titzer, and Camille Zapata.

Honor Roll: Michael Brezina, Isabelle Caramenico, Daniel Duchesneau, Johann Imperial, Mary McAleer, Alexus Pickel, and Angeline Rann.

Riley Smith was named “Student of the 4th Quarter”.

Position Available at OMPH Catholic School:
Kindergarten Teacher Aide and Lunchroom Monitor - 5 days per week; 6 hours per day, when school is in session. Responsibilities include assisting the Kindergarten teacher with classroom activities (singing included) as needed, support the teacher with routine classroom tasks as needed, assist individual children as needed, and supervise all OMPH students in the lunchroom during all lunch periods. It is expected that the successful applicant will abide by all that is set forth in the teacher contract, the Diocesan Policy Book, the Faculty Handbook, assigned duties and classroom responsibilities, and will review the Parent Handbook and Emergency Operations Plan. Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma; a Bachelor or Associates degree is preferable; strict confidentiality working in a school environment is required; strong management & discipline skills with Kindergarten through 8th grade students; must enjoy children of all ages. If interested, please submit a letter of interest along with a resume by Wednesday July 10th to OMPH School office (office@omph.org), 330 Church Ave., Ephrata, PA 17522, Attention: Principal.

Respectfully in His Service,
Mrs. Patricia A. Foltz, MM,
PA Administrative Certificate
Principal,
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School
330 Church Avenue,
Ephrata, PA 17522 717-738-2414

www.omph.org (Church & School) www.hbgdiocese.org (Diocese of Harrisburg)