

# News from P.I.T. (Pastor in Training)



The mere fact that my mother was born in the Middle East sparked a profound question during my high school years. I pondered, what if my mother had been raised Jewish or Muslim? Would I not then follow that faith? These thoughts led me to a seemingly intellectual conclusion - that religion was merely a product of our parents, and the ultimate purpose in life was simply to be a good person.

However, as I delved deeper into the depths of our faith, I began to realize the flaws in my argument. I had failed to consider that in an orderly world, crafted by a loving God, actions bear consequences and punishments. Expiation and reconciliation become necessary for the harmony of this design.

Let's take a simple example. Imagine two children engaged in an argument, with one consumed by anger, throwing a punch. What unfolds for that child? The parents step in, handing out punishments such as grounding or restricted screen time. Oh, the pain! Now, fast forward to that same child as an adult, still wrestling with a volatile temper, throwing a punch at a stranger. What follows? Legal consequences, potential trials, charges of assault and battery, leading to county jail or community service.

Now, let's raise the stakes. Picture that individual, still burdened by anger, directing their fury towards a local mayor or governor. The repercussions escalate, resulting in a sentence within the confines of a state prison. And now, imagine that same person, harboring that same childhood anger, launching an attack on a Congressman, a Senator, or even the President. The outcome could be fatal, or at the very least, a life behind the impenetrable walls of a federal prison.

What is the fundamental difference between these scenarios? The anger remains unchanged, as does the action taken. However, the consequences and punishments differ vastly. What altered? It is to whom the target of that anger is directed towards.

Now, consider the consequences for sinning against God, who is infinite. Wouldn't our punishment then become infinite? Can we, as finite beings, ever repay such a debt? The answer, resoundingly, is no. But here's the remarkable truth: if Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God, He can bear the weight of our infinite offenses. Only Jesus can bridge the vast chasm that separates us. And that, my friends, is the reconciliation that St. Paul speaks of in our second reading!

To be a good person remains of utmost importance, but there is something even more profound that Jesus Christ offers to the world than a mere example of goodness. He offers us reconciliation with our loving God. He offers to restore the bond that was broken by our transgressions. So, let us embrace the truth that being a good person is significant, but let us also recognize the extraordinary gift Jesus Christ extends to us - the opportunity to be reconciled with our Creator, to have our sins forgiven, and to experience the boundless love and grace of our Heavenly Father.

Father Michael



## Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

#### Monday, June 19 - St Romuald, Abbot

8:00 am † Bruce Butowski, by Carolyn Kerkla

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

6:30 pm Int Kathleen Grannon, by Louise Sirianna

(Spanish Mass)

## Tuesday, June 20 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer

6:30 pm † Bruce Fichte, by Family 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, June 21 - St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm + Charles Fowler, by Family

12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

## Thursday, June 22 - St Paulinus of Nola & St John Fisher

6:30 am Int Jimmy Bolger, by Mom

8:00 am † Rosa Camargo, by Elizabeth Nevas

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

## Friday, June 23 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Carmencita Pesch, by Shirley Staples

## Saturday, June 24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist

8:30 am † Juanita Rivera Roco, by The Hurtado Family

9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)

1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)

4:00 pm Vigil - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Anthony M Loquercio, Jr by Family

† Jose Soto, by Family

## Sunday, June 25 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† Paula Toole, by Carolyn Kerkla

10:00 am † Jim & Jane Darby, by Mary Campos

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm Int Matt & Mary Kubanda, by Kubanda Family

5:30 pm Int The People of Our Lady of Mercy



# Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

Votive lamps will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament for the following intentions.

- 1. Tom Gorski
- 2. Rita Hogan
- 3. Special Intention
- 4. Aubrey Ann
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Baby Cerina Skye
- 8. The Deceased

- 9. Charlotte Sartain
- 10. Good Health
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. Rich Ciombor
- 14. Clarity & Understanding
- 15. Anthony M Loquercio, Jr
- 16. The Homeless

If you wish to have a candle burning for your intention in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, you will find envelopes on the shelf in the Narthex near the Priest's Sacristy or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

# Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses

June 24 & 25

Father J	ames will pr	each at all Masses.
Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr James Guarascio
	10:00 am	Fr James Guarascio
	12:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio
	5:30 pm	Fr Jared Rutnicki



Please contact the Parish Office if you or your **immediate** family member wish to be added to the Sick List.

# For our sick, confined and their families.

David Bakke Alfredo Chavez Baby Riley Chick Robert Ciulla Michael Dandan Mary Dunbar **Bridget Garry** Patricia Gebhardt **David Griffins Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Cera Horste Steve Johnson Helen Joseph Baby Penelope Keene Kristen Manning Susan Massett Rev. Don McLaughlin Susan Mennenga Bill Morse

La Moua **Charlene Oates** Flo Paprzycki Diane Pazos Valerie Plesha Jim & Carol Pluskota Jackie Schiable Julia Schremp **Christopher Shea Diane Singer Hedy Sterling** Thomas F. Sterling John Swanston Rev. Gerald Tivy Bernice Tokarski Kathy Walowski Judy Wiltgen

Please note: Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that person, or in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to their medical care, calls to give permission.

Please let the Parish Office know of names which may be removed from the sick list.

#### Those in service to our country

TSgt Leah Harvey, USAF Airman Melanie Hodges, US Navy Nicholaus Laurie, US Marines SSG Sean Murphy, USMC Capt. Tara Trammell, US Army Roberto Ramos, US Army Lt. Joshua Puscas, US Navy SSG Gina Maro, USAF Juan Gabriel Sindac, USAF Aaron Godinez, US Marines LC/Cprl Ryan Ludwig, US Marines Capt. Brian Strohmaier, US Army Elizabeth Pattermann, US Marine LTJG Marion Bautista, US Navy SSG Karla Venegas, US Army SSG Jeremy Norris, US Army Capt. Carmen Lockett, US Army PO3 Joshua San Diego, US Navy LT Daniel Moran, US Army

# Noticias del P.I.T. (Párroco en Formación)



El mero hecho de que mi madre nació en el Medio Oriente provocó una pregunta profunda durante mis años de la escuela secundaria. Reflexioné, ¿y si mi madre hubiera sido criada como judía o musulmana? ¿No seguiría entonces esa fe? Estos pensamientos me llevaron a una conclusión aparentemente intelectual: que la religión era meramente un producto de nuestros padres y que el objetivo final de la vida era simplemente ser una buena persona.

Sin embargo, a medida que ahondaba en las profundidades de nuestra fe, comencé a darme cuenta de las fallas de mi argumento. No había considerado que en un mundo ordenado, elaborado por un Dios amoroso, las acciones traen consecuencias y castigos. La expiación y la reconciliación se vuelven necesarias para la armonía de este diseño.

Tomemos un ejemplo simple. Imagine a dos niños discutiendo, uno de ellos consumido por la ira, lanzando un puñetazo. ¿Qué se desenvuelve para ese niño? Los padres intervienen, repartiendo castigos como castigarlos o restringir el tiempo frente a la pantalla. ¡Ay, el dolor! Ahora, avanza rápidamente a ese mismo niño como un adulto, todavía luchando con un temperamento volátil, lanzando un puñetazo a un extraño. ¿Que sigue? Consecuencias legales, posibles juicios, cargos de asalto y agresión, que conducen a la cárcel del condado o al servicio comunitario.

Ahora, subamos los niveles. Imagínense a ese individuo, todavía agobiado por la ira, dirigiendo su furia hacia un alcalde o gobernador local. Las repercusiones aumentan, lo que resulta en una sentencia dentro de los límites de una prisión estatal. Y ahora, imaginense a esa misma persona, albergando esa misma ira infantil, lanzando un ataque contra un congresista, un senador o incluso el Presidente. El desenlace podría ser fatal, o por lo menos, una vida detrás de los muros impenetrables de una prisión federal.

¿Cuál es la diferencia fundamental entre estos escenarios? La ira permanece sin cambios, al igual que la acción tomada. Sin embargo, las consecuencias y los castigos difieren enormemente. ¿Qué se alteró? Es hacia quien va dirigido el blanco de esa ira.

Ahora, consideren las consecuencias de pecar contra Dios, quien es infinito. ¿No sería entonces infinito nuestro castigo? ¿Podemos nosotros, como seres finitos, pagar tal deuda? La respuesta, rotundamente, es no. Pero aquí está la verdad notable: si Jesucristo es en verdad el Hijo de Dios, Él puede soportar el peso de nuestras ofensas infinitas. Solo Jesús puede salvar el vasto abismo que nos separa. ¡Y esa, mis amigos, es la reconciliación de la que habla San Pablo en nuestra segunda lectura!

Ser una buena persona sigue siendo de suma importancia, pero hay algo aún más profundo que Jesucristo ofrece al mundo que un mero ejemplo de bondad. Él nos ofrece la reconciliación con nuestro Dios amoroso. Él ofrece restaurar el vínculo que fue roto por nuestras transgresiones. Entonces, abracemos la verdad de que ser una buena persona es importante, pero también reconozcamos el don extraordinario que Jesucristo nos extiende: la oportunidad de reconciliarnos con nuestro Creador, de que nuestros pecados sean perdonados y de experimentar el amor ilimitado y la gracia de nuestro Padre Celestial.

Padre Michael



## Lecturas de la Semana

**Domingo** Ex 19, 2-6a;

Sal 99, 2. 3. 5; Rom 5, 6-11; Mt 9, 36—10, 8

**Lunes** 2 Cor 6, 1-10;

Sal 97, 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4;

Mt 5, 38-42

**Martes** 2 Cor 8, 1-9;

Sal 145, 2. 5-6ab. 6c-7. 8-9a;

Mt 5, 43-48

**Miércoles** 2 Cor 9, 6-11;

Sal 111, 1-2. 3-4. 9; Mt 6, 1-6, 16-18

1710 0, 1 0. 10 10

**Jueves** 2 Cor 11, 1-11;

Sal 110, 1-2. 3-4. 7-8;

Mt 6, 7-15

**Viernes** 2 Cor 11, 18. 21-30;

Sal 33, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7;

Mt 6, 19-23

**Sábado** *Vigilia:* Jer 1, 4-10;

Sal 70, 1-2. 3-4a. 5-6ab.15ab&17;

1 Pd 1, 8-12; Lc 1, 5-17

*Día:* Is 49, 1-6; Sal 138, 1-3. 13-14ab. 14c-15;

Hch 13, 22-26; Lc 1, 57-66. 80

**Domingo** Jer 20, 10-13;

Sal 68, 8-10. 14 v 17. 33-35;

Rom 5, 12-15;





# Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 19:2-6a | Rom 5:6-11 | Mt 9:36-10:8

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

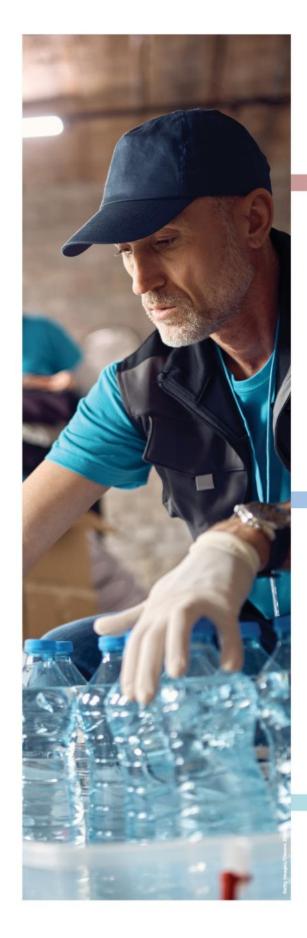
As a teenager, I was someone you might call "Suzy high school." I played sports, was president of my class, had many friends, etc. But there were times I made some bad choices and ended up having to face my parents with the truth. I remember being afraid of what they would think, even wondering if my actions would make them love me less. Thankfully, I was blessed with incredible parents whose loving lessons throughout my life pointed me toward our Father's love. St. Paul gives us a glimpse of how deep the love of our Father is in the second reading: "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so completely that even before we approach him to ask for forgiveness, his arms are open wide. Look up at the cross and let that abundant, unending love wash over you. Reflect on what is said in the first reading from the Book of Exodus: "Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine."

## GO EVANGELIZE

## PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How can we respond to this great love we have been shown by our heavenly Father? Jesus is pretty clear on this topic, isn't he? "Love one another as I have loved you." Not a lot of ambiguity or nuance there. Daunting? Doesn't need to be. The words of today's responsorial psalm proclaim: "Know that the Lord is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends." His flock is all of us – including the poor, the depressed, the lonely. Perhaps we can challenge ourselves this summer to step out in service to God's flock by calling on someone in our own lives who may feel marginalized, frightened, or anxious, and be the hands and feet of our Father to them. Perhaps they do not know the depth of our Father's love and we can reassure them of this. In today's Gospel Jesus says: "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." We have been blessed by the sacrifice of the Lamb, and it is our responsibility to share that blessing with others.

**ACTION** One of the ministries I enjoy contributing to in my area is a Foster Closet. It stocks blankets, clothing, backpacks, toys, and many other products to allow foster children to have quality shopping experiences. If there is one near you, you might find that supporting these vulnerable children is a simple way to let them know they are infinitely worthy of God's love.





# **Bishop Hicks' Column**

## June 2023:

## Turning to Jesus: Healing and Hope



Saturday, May 20, 2023, the sun shone brightly over our Cathedral. That day, we ordained four men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Joliet. It was a day filled with exhilaration and hope for these new priests, as it was, too, for their families and throngs of people who had supported them along the journey to priesthood.

In my homily, I shared that priesthood is a calling from God and a true gift, not only for the new priests, but for all those they would come to serve. These priests would experience ups and downs, resurrection-joy and suffering. Through it all though, I reminded them that Jesus is always with them.

Little did I know how prophetic my message would be; and so quickly. Three days later, the Illinois Attorney General released a report based on his office's nearly 5-year investigation of clergy sexual abuse of minors in the six Illinois dioceses. It detailed the pain, grief, betrayal, and anger inflicted on innocent individuals by clergy. Our new priests, along with the rest of us in this Catholic Church, encountered a crucifixion and the hot pain of the nails of the cross.

The Attorney General's report highlights cases of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, the vast majority of which, in our Diocese, occurred decades ago. The report also acknowledges the significant improvements we have made over the years to address this horrific sin.

The Diocese of Joliet implemented its first policy regarding clergy sexual abuse of minors 33 years ago. More than a decade later, in 2002, the U.S. Conference of Bishops established The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a blueprint for all dioceses and eparchies for reporting sexual abuse of minors by clergy and creating safe environments for our children. As your bishop, I insure we remain true to the Charter, regularly reviewing and updating our policies to respond appropriately to victims/survivors.

I want to emphatically state this: no clergy member or layperson with a substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor is in active ministry or working or volunteering in the Diocese of Joliet.

Over the past 17 years, throughout our diocese, we have substantiated allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor/vulnerable adult against two priests. Indeed, two cases are too many. We strive for zero cases. In both situations, the priests were immediately removed from public ministry and law enforcement took over. Ultimately, both priests were incarcerated and had their canonical faculties removed. Both men are listed on our website's public list, along with priests whose cases date from decades ago.

Reporting and removing abusive clergy from our church is absolutely necessary and we've been doing it here effectively for more than 30 years. Since 2006, the diocese has published a public list of clergy with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult. The list includes names of religious order and extern priests assigned to our diocese with allegations substantiated by their respective religious community or home diocese.

Two additional actions are just as important: tending to the healing and accompaniment of victims/survivors of abuse; and preventing abuse from occurring at all.

We have an entire group devoted to protecting our children: the Office of Child and Youth Protection. Our victim assistance coordinator helps victims in making their report and facilitating referrals to pastoral care, counseling, and other services. This help is offered regardless of when the abuse is alleged to have occurred, and whether the accused is a diocesan or religious order priest.

Maintaining a safe environment is critical to ending the scourge of sexual abuse of minors in our Church and we take this responsibility very seriously. All church personnel submit to a criminal background check prior to service. That includes priests, deacons, diaconal candidates, seminarians, religious, principals, teachers, social workers, coaches, faith formation leaders, and diocesan staff and parish staff (both paid and volunteer). Please visit our website at <a href="www.diojoliet.org">www.diojoliet.org</a> for more information about child protection measures and how to report abuse.

Over the past twenty years, 63,000 adults in our diocese have completed safe-environment training programs for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Last year alone, more than 39,000 children within our diocese were trained in an age-appropriate manner on how to recognize and report abusive behavior.

Join me in continued prayers for all victims/survivors of sexual abuse as we accompany them in their journey of healing. Unite with me in our quest and moral responsibility to protect children and prevent abuse.

We faced a dark storm with the release of the Attorney General's report. Like the disciples in the Gospel, we are all in this boat together. But Jesus is in the boat with us! Through all the challenges of our lives, Jesus is always with us. May we constantly turn to our Lord and Savior, for HE is the source of true healing and hope.



**DIOCESE OF JOLIET** 



# QUO VADIS DAYS

Sunday, July 30 - Wednesday, August 2, 2023 Mundelein Seminar, Mundelein, IL

OUD VADIS DAYS

Quo Vadis Days is a 4-day/3-night camp co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet and led by the seminarians.

The camp is filled with dynamic talks, small group discussion, prayer experiences, as well as plenty of fun - sports, canoeing, capture the flag, fires and s'mores and much more.

The camp is open to all graduating 8th graders through graduating high school seniors (13-18 yrs. old) that want to grow in their relationship with the Lord and learn more about the priesthood.

To pay and register with the Diocese of Joliet, please visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/602809448287

Questions, please email us at: vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org





Our next PADS/Hesed House Service Day falls on **Tuesday**, **July 4th**, a federal holiday in observance of **Independence Day**. We expect many of you will be partaking in patriotic celebrations, parades, fireworks and family-get-togethers, that may preclude food drop-off. With this in mind, for the month of July, in honoring our commitment to feed the hungry at Hesed House, we will use a **hybrid format in soliciting donations**.

The main meal and side dishes will be purchased with monetary donations, and the PADS Board will only be used to solicit non-perishable items and cleaning supplies. In the spirit of brotherly love and charity, we ask you to please make a monetary donation, to help cover the cost of purchasing meals for 250 guests at Hesed House. Monetary donations can be made via the OLM Online Giving Portal (please specify donation is for Hesed House), or make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Church, and write on the memo "Hesed House-PADS".

Thank you for being a blessing to our brothers and sisters who are in need.



#### Parish Sacrificial Giving 1,423,131 **Actual Year-to-Date Collections** \$ Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget 1,438,200 \$ **Amount Short of Budget** (15,069)\$ 06/04/23 Sunday Collection 35,352 \$ Weekly Sunday Goal 30,600 \$ **Amount in Excess of Goal** 4,752

For the Budget Year 2022/23 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 2%, to \$30,600/week, to help expand our various Ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Parish in your will and estate planning.

Parish Life Center (Const	ruct	cion Loan)
April, 2009	\$	1,950,000
April, 2023	\$	377,063
May, 2023	\$	365,613



## **CMAA Pledge Report**

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid so that our parish will reach our goal. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs.

Parish Goal	\$ 141,900
Amount Pledged	\$ 163,378
Amount Paid	\$ 130,061
Remaining Balance	\$ 33,317
Rebate Amount	\$ 0
# of Families Pledged	469



## Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

701 S. Eola Road † Aurora, IL 60504 www.olmercy.com

	Off	

Tel: (630) 851-3444 • FAX: (630) 85	1-3468
Monday-Thursday	8:30am-4:00pm
Friday	8:30am-1:00pm

## **Mass Schedule**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8:00am
Monday (Spanish Mass)	6:30pm
Tuesday 8:00	am, 6:30pm
Wednesday	12:00pm
Thursday6:30	am, 8:00am
Saturday	8:30am
Saturday (Anticipated for Sunday)	4:00pm
Sunday8:00am, 10:00am,12:00pm,	and 5:30pm

## **Holy Days of Obligations**

Schedule varies. Consult the Mass Schedule in the bulletin or website.

#### **Confessions**

Tuesday		7:00-8:00pm
Saturday	9:00-10:00am,	1:30-2:30pm
1st Fridays of the Month		8:30-9:15am
Or by Appointment		

#### **Prayer Chapel**

Open weekday	/S	7:00am 8:00am
Open weekday	/S	. / .UUam-8.UUbm

#### Adoration

Monday & Thursday	8:30am-6:00pm
Wednesdays	8:00am-12:00pm
First Friday of the Month	12:00pm

## Benediction

#### **New Parishioners**

We welcome you! Please register by visiting our website at www.olmercy.com. Click on "New Here" and choose "Join OLM" to fill out the online registration form.

#### Sick and Homebound

Contact the Parish Office so we may help you in any way possible.

#### Hospitalization

If you anticipate a hospitalization or are admitted to an area hospital and would like a visit from a priest or Eucharistic Minister, please notify the parish office.

scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirement Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

#### **Baptisms**

Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must complete a parent workshop. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent.

#### Weddings

The bride, groom or either set of parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Weddings may be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

# Parish Directory

## **Parish Priests**

Parish Priests
PastorFr. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228 frmichael@olmercy.com
oso osi siri, exa ezo arminonaci@onnercy.com
Parochial Vicar Fr. James Guarascio
630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frjames@olmercy.com
050-651-5444, Ext. 220 Hjames@onnercy.com
Permanent Deacons
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Dcn Tony Leazzotonyl@olmercy.com
Dcn Tony Martinitonym@olmercy.com
Dcn Doug McIlvainedougm@olmercy.com
=
Dcn Phil Rehmer deaconphil@rehmer.com
Dcn Bugsy Sindac bugsys@olmercy.com
Dcn Art Tiongsonhope2640@yahoo.com
Pastoral Staff
Director of Music Ministries Frank Sauter
331-707-5379 franks@olmercy.com
331-707-3373 Hanks@officicy.com
Pastoral CareJolene LeRoy
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Françalization & Communications 70x0 Ton
Evangelization & Communications Zara Tan
331-707-5381zara@olmercy.com
Family Evangelization & Catechesis
Family Evangelization & Catechesis  Director (Pre K-5) & RCIC Mary Jo Trapani
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Director (Pre K-5) & RCIC Mary Jo Trapani 331-707-5378maryjot@olmercy.com
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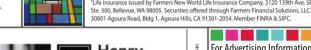
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