

**Church Open/Office Hours 7:30 am to 7:30 pm 7 days a week**  
**Mass, Adoration & Reconciliation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**

**Weekday Mass**

*Mornings:* Monday to Saturday 8:30 am

*Evenings:* Monday to Friday 6:15 pm

**Sunday Mass**

Saturday vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm

*Sunday Mass in Tofield:* 11:00 am St. Francis of Assisi Parish

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Monday to Friday: *Immediately Following Morning and Evening Mass*

Saturday 9:15 am to 11:00 am

**Adoration**

**\*\*\*EVERY FRIDAY a Holy Hour prior to each daily Mass\*\*\***

**7:30 am prior to Morning Mass and 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass**

Every Wednesday Holy Hour 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass

*1st Wednesday hosted by Mary's Servants for Christ: May 1*

*2nd Wednesday hosted by Society of St. Vincent de Paul: May 8*

*3rd Wednesday hosted by CWL: May 15*

*4th Wednesday hosted by K of C: April 24*



**We have a NEW YouTube Channel!** For the benefit of the faithful whose health or other circumstances prevent them from attending the church in person, **all Masses and Adoration will now be livestreamed at:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@olphparishsherwoodparkab/streams>**

**WATCH** the 8:30 am Mass, seven days a week, live on Telus Optik TV Channel 877.  
(Must be a Telus Optik subscriber.)

**LISTEN** to the 8:30 am Sunday Mass live – or anytime – from your landline or cell phone.  
Dial 888-OLPH-808 (888-657-4808) and then follow the simple instructions.



*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish ~ A Roman Catholic Christian Community*

**Sunday April 21, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe*

**13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7 780-467-5470 www.olph.ca**



**Registration now open for OLPH VACATION BIBLE CAMP**

At *Splash Canyon* your children will learn **God Keeps His Promises on Life's Wild Ride!** Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games and more.

**DATE:** July 8 -12

**TIME:** 9:00 am - 12:30 pm daily, downstairs at OLPH Parish

**AGES:** Children finishing Kindergarten to Grade 5 as of June 2024

**COST:** is \$70 per child. (Register by June 9 to receive a t-shirt)

**Note:** We have limited spaces in each group so register early to ensure a space.

**Registrations Forms can be picked up at the Parish Office.**

**April 21 is World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

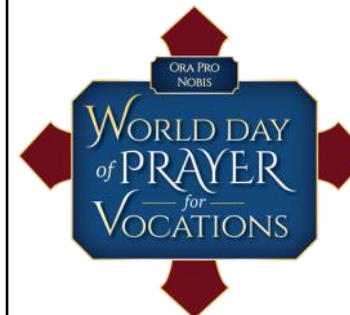
***Everyone Has a Divine Vocation***

“Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by

Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation!

Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit.”

*~Homily by Pope Saint John Paul II*



**THIS SUNDAY**  
**April 21**

**Pancake Breakfast** following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses

**Hosted by our Knights of Columbus**  
**\$7 per person or \$22 per family**  
**(Mom, Dad and ALL kids 18 & younger)**



**SSVP POOR BOX**  
**COLLECTION**  
**AFTER ALL MASSES**  
**THIS WEEKEND**



A humble and heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who supports the financial needs of our parish home with Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD), by bringing your Sunday Giving Envelopes to the church, or donating via INTERAC ETRANSFER to: [OLPH.etransfer@caedm.ca](mailto:OLPH.etransfer@caedm.ca)



April 22 - 27

**Monday** ~ Jaime Arevalo Sr. †, Leonardo Oalin †, Mervyn Lynch †, German Cagayan †, James Busch †, Thomas Luady †, Joseph Joseph †, Charles Joel & Sheila Agas, Edidiona Akpan, Emmanuel Nsien, Delainey Lewis

**Tuesday** ~ Grandparents of Joseph's family †, George Lucki †, Des Nolan †, Holy Souls in Purgatory †, Domonic Willott †, Victor Baker †, Marvin & Gail Weleschuk & family, Ben & Chantal & family, Agnes Sim, Gwen De Castro

**Wednesday** ~ Ray Riou †, Ken Heykants †, Manuel Stasuk †, Al Eshpeter †, Justin Ebertz, Dominic Silveira, Jozsef Varkonyi

**Thursday** ~ Ted Laxton †, Charlito M. Garcia †, Molly Isaiah †, Chase Evan Gourlay †, Guy St. Germain, Marvin & Gail Weleschuk & family, Jaime Schubinski

**Friday** ~ Scott Burnard †, E. J. Menard †, Eric Jones †, Alec Babich †, Maria Fernanda Matos †, Angela Kryba, Violet Fernandez, Catholic Women's League, Barbara Otway, Brittany Cavanagh

**Saturday** ~ Prashanth De Sousa, Carol Draganiuk, Rose Harlow, Kent MacDonald

Our condolences to Margaret Dolynchuk & family, Margaret's husband, **Lawrence Dolynchuk**, passed away on April 16 in Edmonton. His funeral will be at 10:30 am on Monday April 29 at OLPH.

Funeral for **Peter Sieben** will be at 12:00 pm on Friday April 26 at OLPH.

Funeral for **Don Enyedy** will be at 12:00 pm on Saturday April 27 at OLPH.

Funeral for **Carrie Peterson** will be at 11:00 am on Saturday May 4 at OLPH.



Your OLPH Parish Team

Pastor ~ Fr. Jim Corrigan  
[jcorrigan@olph.ca](mailto:jcorrigan@olph.ca)

Associate Pastor  
Fr. Ben Makkollil, CMI  
[frben@olph.ca](mailto:frben@olph.ca)

Associate Pastor  
Fr. Mario Villaraza, SDB  
[frmario@olph.ca](mailto:frmario@olph.ca)

Permanent Deacon  
Deacon Lynn Pion  
[lpion@olph.ca](mailto:lpion@olph.ca)

Business Coordinator  
Deacon Arden Playford  
[aplayford@olph.ca](mailto:aplayford@olph.ca)

Pastoral Assistant  
Natalie Lavigne [nlavigne@olph.ca](mailto:nlavigne@olph.ca)

Administrative Assistant  
Jenny Velazco [jvelazco@olph.ca](mailto:jvelazco@olph.ca)

Administrative Assistant  
Angie DeWolfe  
[adewolfe@olph.ca](mailto:adewolfe@olph.ca)

WEEKEND Admin Support  
[tempreception@olph.ca](mailto:tempreception@olph.ca)

Volunteer Management  
[vmteam@olph.ca](mailto:vmteam@olph.ca)

Other Inquiries: [info@olph.ca](mailto:info@olph.ca)  
Parish Office 780-467-5470  
OLPH Website: [www.olph.ca](http://www.olph.ca)

Archdiocese of Edmonton  
Website: [www.caedm.ca](http://www.caedm.ca)

In event of an emergency, contact Fr. Jim at 780-470-2730

**TOFIELD CORNER ~ St. Francis of Assisi Parish ~**  
**Mass every Sunday at 11:00 am**

"If God can work through me, He can work through anyone!" ~St. Francis of Assisi



**4th Sunday of Easter** ~ This Sunday Jesus tells us that *He is The Good Shepherd* and He lets us know what that means. Now that the apostles see that Jesus died and rose again for us, they understand what He is asking of them. How do *we* become like Christ? What part of ourselves are *we* willing to give up to be good shepherds in our own community?! Our beautiful saints show us how. *We* can do it too!!

1. General Meeting TODAY April 21 after Sunday Mass. Please join in. All ideas are welcome! **(There will be discussion on an accessibility project at our meeting!)**
2. We have good news for our seniors. Fr. Jim has said yes to one Mass a month on Wednesdays at the Tofield Lodge. More info to come.
3. We are looking forward to joining in with the yearly **Tofield Community Garage Sale on Saturday May 25**. Do you have items you would like to donate? We will also need people to help 'man' the booths. Talk to one of the church council members or call Kathy at 780-270-8652.
4. Springtime gardeners! Please spare a bit of your time to help our little church look as beautiful on the outside as its members are on the inside!! Sign-up sheet is at the front entrance of the church.
5. Date for the Bake Sale will be decided at our G.M., so please plan to make and donate your favorite treat!

To post in the 'Tofield Corner' contact Kathy by phone 780-270-8652 or email [Kathleen.Anderson.one@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleen.Anderson.one@gmail.com). (Weekly bulletin deadline is Wednesday.)

**OLPH Financial Report**

Week 16 April 14, 2024	Cost of Operating the Parish	Building Fund Target Amount	"Together We Serve" Target Amount
Average weekly amount required	\$25,000.00	\$2,480.00	\$2,310.00
Donations this week	\$21,091.75	\$2,556.00	\$1,825.25
This week surplus/shortfall	-\$3,908.25	\$76.00	-\$484.75

- Cost of operating the parish "average weekly amount" is 1/52 of the total annual amount of ordinary receipts projected in the 2023 budget
- Building fund target average weekly amount is based on total donations projected in 2021 budget.
- Together We Serve weekly amount is based an annual target which is set by the Archdiocese.
- Together We Serve Collection - *First Sunday of every month - May 5*
- Society of St. Vincent De Paul Poor Box Collection - *Third Weekend of every Month - April 20 - 21*

# Beware of "FAKE Fr. Jim" Scam Emails!

## PHISHING

Phishing is a common tactic cyber criminals use to trick you into sending money or giving up sensitive information. Phishing messages are typically sent by email or text (also known as smishing).

### WHAT DOES PHISHING LOOK LIKE?

Phishing and smishing messages are made to look like they've come from real companies. Some signs to look out for are:

- Asking you to **validate your account** information by clicking a link.
- Informing you that **there's a "problem" with your account** that can be resolved by clicking a link.
- **Threatening you with action** (such as closing your account or taking legal action) if you don't respond immediately.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### 6.4 BILLION PHISHING EMAILS ARE SENT EACH DAY<sup>1</sup>.

- **1 in 10 Canadians** have unknowingly replied to a phishing email<sup>2</sup>
- Phishing is the **third most commonly reported scam** in Canada<sup>3</sup>
- **29 per cent** of Canadians are most concerned about phishing scams<sup>4</sup>

### HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF

Be aware and be skeptical. If you receive an email that seems suspicious, here are some things you can do to defend yourself:

- **Verify that it's legitimate** by calling the company or service provider.
- **Don't click any links or give up any personal information.**
- **Check the email address** for suspicious spelling or characters.
- **Look for inconsistencies** like pixelated logos or misspellings.
- **Verify the hyperlink** behind the link's text or button by hovering over the text
- **Take a moment to analyze the situation** before doing anything rash.



<sup>1</sup> Valimail, 2018 Email Fraud Landscape, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Public Safety Canada, Survey of Internet Users Regarding Cyber Security, EKOS Research Associates, 2018

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, Fraud Prevention Toolkit, 2020

<sup>4</sup> Communications Security Establishment, Survey of Internet Users Regarding Cyber Security, EKOS Research Associates 2020 (when Complete)

## What's Happening at OLPH

**The Clothing Nook is OPEN for Shopping:**

Tuesday April 23  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Saturday April 27  
10:00 am – Noon



Mass Schedule

**Seniors Residences & Care Centers This Week**

Tuesday April 23 ~ Sherwood Care 10:30 am  
Wednesday April 24 ~ Country Cottage 10:30 am  
Thursday April 25 ~ Silver Birch 10:30 am  
Thursday April 25 ~ Aster Gardens 2:00 pm

**Sign Up to VOLUNTEER in support of our Spring Potluck!**

*Set Up, Clean Up, Decorating, Kitchen Help, Kids' Crafts, etc.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CAEA62CA2F85-49001323-spring#/>

Saturday

May 11



**OLPH PARISH POTLUCK & FAMILY DANCE**

Starting at 6:15 pm, after the evening Mass

**LIVE MUSIC BY THE BEACH BUOYS!**

Free & Fun Community Event For All Ages.

\* Spring Themed Children Activities & Craft \*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Dress up in Bright Spring Colours and bring your favorite food dish to share.



**Parish Job Posting: CUSTODIAL STAFF**



*We are seeking a hard-working, conscientious candidate to assist with providing church members, visitors, and staff with a clean, orderly place to worship and congregate.*

**Hours of Work:** Friday & Saturday mornings, 7:30 am to 10:30 am.

**Applicants must be:** Observant, respectful, motivated, and committed to work independently or with others. Must be physically able to provide thorough, efficient custodial services to the church. Should also be knowledgeable about safety, proper chemical handling and cleaning techniques, and have the ability to make basic repairs.

Send your application for this paid position to OLPH Business Coordinator, Deacon Arden Playford by email to [aplayford@olph.ca](mailto:aplayford@olph.ca) with resume, covering letter and two references.

## What's Happening at OLPH

### *Congratulations to the dear children who received First Holy Communion at OLPH April 6 & 7*

Brent A.	Kenili S.	Amelia V.	Rachel B.
Luke B.	Lasini S.	Gianna F.	Eileen R.
Eiygie G.	Sofia R.	Donovan D.	Emily D.
Jarrel G.	Kinsley D.	Zachary D.	Etta H.
William H.	Riley K.	Quinn C.	Abigail L.
Lucio L.	Stella M.	Aurora C.	Owen M.
Luisa L.	Bentley N.	Isabella D.	Emmett W.
Margaux L.	Conor O.	David A.	
Raven S.	Brooke S.	Ryker S.	
Shanlly S.	Joseph W.	Lillian K.	
Shanaya S.	Hannah B.	Emma P.	



## What's Happening at OLPH

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Palliative Care is the right of every Canadian.  
Uniform standards and delivery of palliative care  
is essential to ALL Canadians.

### **12 HOURS OF PRAYER for PALLIATIVE CARE**

**8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Thursday May 2**

CWL invites you again to set aside 1 hour this day to pray for Palliative Care. As with the last few years, you are welcome to pray either at the church or at home. Please use the link below to sign up for an hour slot .

<https://volunteersignup.org/YDTHX>

Prayer package link will be provided to all who sign up; copies of this prayer kit will also be left at the church on May 2.

Any questions, please reach out to Tracy at [tracy.lockhart@cwloiph.ca](mailto:tracy.lockhart@cwloiph.ca) or Carolyn at [carolyn.fougere@cwloiph.ca](mailto:carolyn.fougere@cwloiph.ca) .

*Thank you so much for your gift of time and prayer!*

# JETS

## Step into Spring

Come breathe in this new fragrant season with the JETS Women's group on their next flight happening this Friday, April 26. Meet at the front entrance to Festival Place, located at 100 Festival Way, at 9:45 am and we will begin our exquisite movement in the beauty of Broadmoor Lake Park at 10 am. There is free parking at FP.

Each will be provided with a **Walking Bingo Card** to facilitate finding points and things that are interesting as we stroll the loop. Please bring your own water bottle, sunglasses/hats and don't forget sunscreen - we are optimistic but also consider an umbrella as we will proceed rain or shine.

Complimentary in-flight snacks will be served by our JETS crew in the sheltered picnic site by the playground. For further details contact our flight captain of the day, Edwina, at [neviegas@gmail.com](mailto:neviegas@gmail.com).



*"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day" Genesis 3:8*

## Volunteer Opportunities



### **Be a part of VBS Team July 8 - 12!**

*Life is full of thrills and spills! We don't know what's around the bend, but God does! Come be a part of our team and share God's message with the Kids!*

If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interest. We are still needing a couple of Group Leaders and extra hands to help out.

Youth Volunteers, if you are finishing grade 6 or older, come be a part of our Youth Team to help with set up July 2 - 4 as well as the week of camp.

**For more info contact Sharon Darbyshire at [sdarbyshire@olph.ca](mailto:sdarbyshire@olph.ca)**

## The CWL Strawberry Tea & FASHION SHOW



Raffle Draws 50/50 Tickets Fashions by UnBoutiqued

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

Doors open at 5:30pm Fashion Show starts at 7:00pm

OLPH Church Parish Hall  
13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park

Tickets \$15 each, can reserve a table for 8 email [strawberrytea@cwloiph.ca](mailto:strawberrytea@cwloiph.ca) to purchase tickets  
Gluten and dairy free food options available with advance request.



### **Lesson 4 (of 5) ~ Discipleship**



Confirmation  
Class News

- Saturday April 27, 8:30 am -10:45 am
- Tuesday April 30, 6:15 pm - 8:30 pm or
- Wednesday May 1, 6:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Always be on time for Mass and bring your workbooks! **Be ready to talk about VOLUNTEER SERVICE.** If you have any questions, to RSVP or change your class date please email Natalie: [sacraments@olph.ca](mailto:sacraments@olph.ca)

## Catholic Community News



**May 9, 12:00PM (NOON)**



- LOCATION** The Alberta Legislature - Violet King Henry Plaza  
Parking - East of the Legislature on 106 St
- WHY ATTEND** Join thousands at this peaceful event to show the size, strength and solidarity of the pro-life movement to the public and government.
- CONDUCT** Participants will remain respectful, peaceful and welcoming.
- SIGNS** You are welcome to make your own signs without graphic abortion images.



**MAY 9TH**

**PRO-LIFE MASS - 10:00AM**

**THE ROSE DINNER - 6:00PM**

Dinner and Dialogue with Alveda King

Visit Our Website For More Information: [AlbertaMarchForLife.com](http://AlbertaMarchForLife.com)



2024 **PLANT SALE**



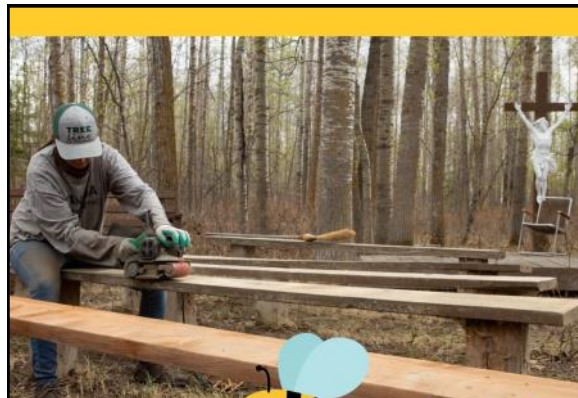
Fundraising For: Holy Spirit School Council

Orders Due: April 21st 2024 8:00pm

Plant Pick-up: May 7/8 2024

<p><b>PLANTERS &amp; BASKETS</b> Mixed flowers, Strawberry Baskets, Boston Fern Baskets</p> <p>\$ 40-45</p>	<p><b>INDOOR FOLIAGE</b> A trio of indoor foliage plants set in upgraded pots</p> <p>\$ 40.00</p>
<p><b>GARDEN ESSENTIALS</b> Variety Packs of Herbs and Veggies, organic soil, fertilizer, etc</p> <p>\$ 36.00</p>	<p><b>10-PACK FLOWERS</b> Geraniums, Wave Petunias, and Marigolds!</p> <p>\$ 32-40</p>

Order Online:  
<https://holyspiritcatholic.growingsmilesfundraising.com>



**2024 OLVC WORK BEES**

**SATURDAY, MAY 11TH AND JUNE 1ST**

Help us clean, repair, and build Camp in preparation for the summer! We need help with everything from maintenance to hospitality. We are seeking **100 volunteers on both dates** to help us ensure our campers can enjoy safe and life-changing summers at OLVC for years to come.



Do you have the skills to make a difference? Contact us today!

Email:  
Cody.Parr@caedm.ca

Phone:  
587-447-2837

For more information, go to [www.camps.caedm.ca/work-bees/](http://www.camps.caedm.ca/work-bees/)

## What's Happening at OLPH



SOCIETY of St. VINCENT de PAUL (SSVP)  
OUR LADY of PERPETUAL HELP CONFERENCE



The small Arctic hamlet of Paulatuk, located in the Inuvik Region of the NWT, consists of about 350 people of which 90% are indigenous. Hunting, fishing, trapping and recently print-making are their major economic activities. They have an RCMP detachment, a health centre, K-12 school, a community learning center, and an airport. (Paulatuk is not accessible by road). The community is served only by the Catholic Church. The renovation of a 60-year-old Oblate Mission House into a warming and distribution center will be completed this year. SSVP has been assisting with many of the items and labor needed for this undertaking.

**It's almost time for our annual REVERSE COLLECTION, to help this community with requested and needed**

**items. With the generous support of OLPH Parish, our SSVP volunteers and the surrounding community, we will be filling an 8 x 8 x 20 ft SeaCan.**

**April 27 & 28:** REVERSE COLLECTION at Sunday Masses ~ choosing a food item or a cash donation, toward the purchase of a specific item such as mattresses, bedding etc.

**May 4 & 5:** Collection at all masses of the above items selected in the previous week. (Volunteers needed for about 2 hrs.)

**May 6, 7, and during the week:** Sorting and packing and preparing for shipping. (Volunteers needed for about 3 hrs.) **We are planning to ship the SeaCan to Paulatuk mid-May.**

**We cannot do this without your support through contributions of goods, money, time and energy. CAN YOU HELP US? Contact Tom at 780-467-4775**

**Thank you in advance for your generosity and concern for those that we serve!** (Any surplus items collected for Paulatuk will be generously donated to the people of Sacred Heart and St. Alphonse's Parishes in Edmonton, and to our indigenous communities of Saddle Lake and Good Fish Lake in Alberta.)

**April is Earth Month**

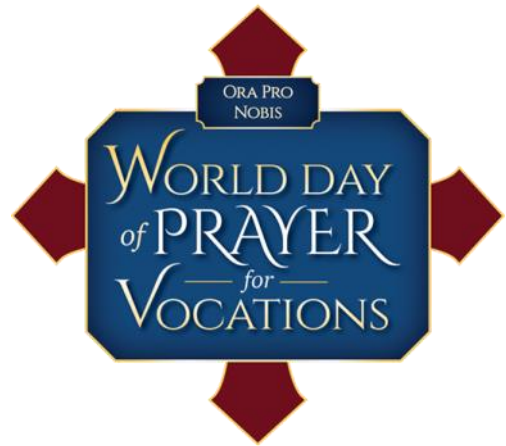
**Volunteer.  
Learn.  
Celebrate.**



Pope Francis said **"Religions have a very important role in the task of promoting care and respect for the environment. Faith in God leads us to recognise Him in his Creation, which requires us to care for and protect nature."** (Sept 8, 2016)

All are welcome to a **Free Film Screening of "RIVER"** - a profound cinematic and musical reflection on how rivers have shaped both the planet's landscapes and all human existence - at the Strathcona County Council Chambers on Sunday April 21. Please register at [strathcona.ca/WaterFilm](http://strathcona.ca/WaterFilm).

The theme for Earth Day is **Planet vs Plastics**. All are invited to gather and properly dispose of litter in your neighbourhoods. Submit your name and number of pieces gathered after May 1 to [service@cwlolph.ca](mailto:service@cwlolph.ca). There will be random draws and CWL will announce the difference we have made to our community.



**The fourth Sunday of Easter is often referred to as *Good Shepherd Sunday*, as it is the “*World Day of Prayer for Vocations*” within the Universal Church.**

When we hear the word vocation, often our first thought will revolve around vocations to the priesthood or religious life. This is reasonable, given that most of us grew up hearing that priests or religious sisters were responding to their vocation, or they were living their vocation.

The Church teaches that there are in fact three different vocations, and that we are all called to respond to one of those vocations. They are as stated **1. The vocation to the priesthood or religious life, 2. The**

**vocation of marriage, and 3. The vocation to single life.** The Church is clear that there is not a hierarchy of order within these vocations. The key is that our Lord has called each of us to a particular vocation. The challenge is for each of us to individually to discern the vocation God desires for us. Then, respond to that vocation to the best of our imperfect human ability. It all goes back to the reality that our God has a plan for each of us. When we are able to discern what that plan is, and to live it out, we will have fulfillment and joy in our lives.

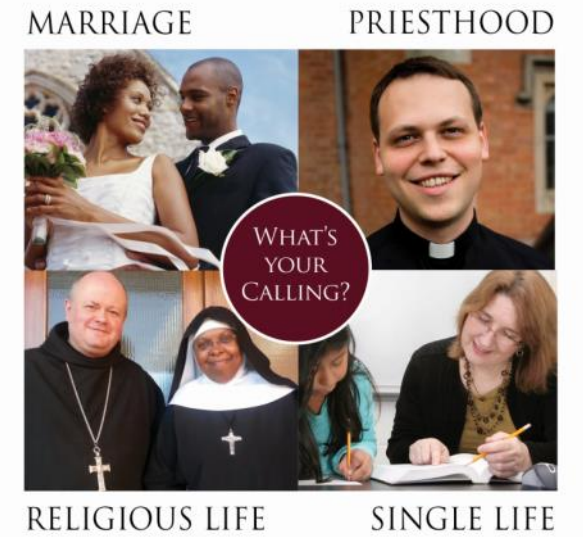
At times we refer to what we do as our vocation. *I am a teacher, a nurse, a mother.* I would say that these are vocations within our larger vocation identity. I spent a significant part of my life working in industry. Over the course of twenty-four years, I obtained certification as a Steamfitter-Gasfitter, a Millwright, and a Boilermaker. I joke that I look good on paper, but those three trades are not overly helpful on this present job site. Why the sharing of my past life and work experience? I would say that I was a good Pipe Fitter. I worked hard, and I worked whatever hours I was required to work. However, it was not a natural fit for me. I could see that I did not have the innate aptitude that some of the other fellows had, when it came to the intricacies of the trade. It was a long, convoluted, circuitous and at times traumatic route that I took, to arrive at my vocation to the priesthood. But I can say with sincerity that it feels a whole lot more natural to me as a priest, than it ever did as a tradesman. I believe it feels natural to me because this thick-headed Irishman finally was able to discern and respond to God’s plan for me.

I wish to focus on the vocation of marriage. On Thursday I celebrated Mass at one of

our local seniors’ homes. I know many of the twenty-five or so Catholics that attend Mass there. Many of these folks have experienced the loss of their life-long spouses. Fifty and sixty-year relationships that ended with the passing of their loved one. For sure this is part of life, and death is the door we all need to pass through to achieve the eternal glorious joy that our Lord desires for us. In my homily, I asked them to reflect back to the day of their marriage so many years before. At that time, they had pronounced the following vows. “I \_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_ to be my spouse. I promise to be true to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you, all the days of my life.” Certainly, at that moment in time, they were not thinking they might have to care for an extremely sick spouse at some point in their lives. They were envisioning a joy-filled life together. Why? Because they had discerned God’s plan for them and responded to it, to the best of their human ability.

Yet perhaps fifty years later, the Lord offered them the opportunity to truly live out those vows when their spouse became ill. They were given the blessed and challenging opportunity to care for their loved one in the “sickness” part of their lives. I have seen this many times in my time as a priest. It always touches my heart, when I see a spouse looking after a loved one, even when perhaps they have their hands full looking after themselves. It brings a tear to my eye when I am privileged to see a vocation lived out in such a real and selfless way. God gives them the grace to do what they do, because of the love that is in their hearts for the other. My friends, the witness of these people who live out their marital vocation in sickness and in health, until death do they part, is a profound example of living one’s vocation to the full.

When you are young and madly in love with one another, it is not so difficult to live out your vocation joyfully. At one point the honeymoon ends, and you are raising children and making a living. Finally, when you are elderly, and your health is dissipating, it is then that your vocation, your faith, and your trust in God really shines forth. Responding to God’s plan and vocation for each of us, in no way guarantees us that life will be a walk in the park. It does however guarantee that we have the Good Shepherd walking with us every step of the way. Thank you dear Jesus.



Blessings, Fr. Jim