



OLC Connection

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Flying High with God at Sky Vacation Bible School by Lisa Yelovich

Our Lady of Consolation's annual Vacation Bible School was held during the last week of July. Over 60 children, from preschool ages through fifth grade, attended this year's program, Sky VBS 2012, where we learned that "Everything is possible with God." Mark 10:27

Each evening was kicked off by our very own pilot to Heaven, Flash Skyrunner. We flew with Flash on his journey to becoming a real pilot, and along the way we learned one of God's most important lessons, that no matter what, we can Trust God!

What trust in God really means.

Every night featured a Bible story and lesson. On the first night we heard how a Roman soldier trusted in Jesus. Through this soldier's story we learned that no matter who you are, you can trust God. The next night we listened to the story of how Jesus brought Lazarus back to life, and that no matter how we feel we can trust God.

The third night of Sky VBS had to be everyone's favorite, this was water night! The kids got to play some wild and wet games outside and ride an awesome water slide. We learned that no matter what people do, we can trust God, just as Jesus trusted God when he was arrested and put to trial.

On our fourth night we read the story about Jesus' Death and Resurrection. What an amazing lesson! Jesus gave his very life for us so that we could be free of sin. We learned that no matter what happens, we need to trust God, because He will show us the way.

Our final night taught us that no matter where we are, we can trust God. God is always on our side, and with Him we can be strong and courageous!

Fun-filled music, snacks & prayers.

The kids got to make terrific crafts and memorabilia every night at

VBS. We had delicious snacks courtesy of our fantastic kitchen crew. There was lots of outdoor playtime, and we were blessed that God shed his Grace on us with great weather every evening. In music class we learned many awesome songs of praise and we prayed together every night.

The week culminated in a program and reception for parents and friends on our final night. The children sent their praises sky high to God singing our theme song "Fly," along with many other fabulous tunes. Our buddy, Flash Skyrunner, finally got his wish to fly, and everyone had a truly fantastic week at Sky VBS.

We'd like to thank Dee Cain and Karen Kibler for once again heading up this wonderful program. To the many folks who volunteered their time and talents to VBS, we heartily thank you, as none of this is possible without you! We are so blessed to have you with us. Thanks to Sara Eby for painting our beautiful mural! To the Lord God we thank you for bringing the children to us so that we can continue to learn your Word and live your Word.

If you missed this year's Vacation Bible School don't worry, we'll be back again next summer. The kids will certainly want to come back again next July for another exciting week of living and learning God's Word!



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OUR PASTOR'S PONDERINGS by Father Victor J. Eschbach

Most of our lives seem to evolve into really comfortable rhythms. We generally get up at the same time; eat our meals at the same time; go about the day's business at the same time; and retire at the same time. During our waking hours most of us set aside time for work, play, prayer, conversation, family, friends, study, hobbies, and the like. But there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that need to be done, let alone all the things we would like to do. If you're anything like me, when you reach the end of the day, and review what you accomplished and what you didn't, you wearily admit you didn't do half the things you needed to do, to say nothing of the things you would have liked to have done. And, you're oh so very tired.

Then, change enters the picture. Change that's going to further disrupt the comfortable rhythms of life that are already being stretched. The natural reaction to such change is to resist it. "Who needs it?" we ask. But as the old cliché suggests, "If we don't change, we die."

We have instituted change in our CCD/PREP and LTJV Programs this year that, for some, requires further stretching of the comfortable rhythms of their lives. I would like to outline these changes and explain the rationale for them in the hope that you can see the value of them for our children and our whole Church Family:

We have moved all our 1st and 2nd grade classes to Sunday morning after the 9:00 AM Mass, and no longer provide these classes on Tuesday evening. While this may cause some discomfort on families that have older children attending Tuesday evening classes, we felt it was necessary for the good of the young children in these grades simply because the little ones were coming to class tired and listless after spending the whole day in school. They just weren't able to concentrate that late in the day. We also hoped that moving the classes for these little ones will make it easier for their families to gather together at the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday mornings.



The other big change we made was moving the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to the 8th grade, rather than 6th grade. This change was made in response to the recommendation of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Blue Ribbon Commission on Education that this should be the norm throughout the Archdiocese to allow the children to attain greater maturity and greater understanding of the Faith so that they can make a more informed commitment in their Confirmation of their Faith.

Therefore, those presently in the 6th grade have entered into a 3 year LTJV Program, which is a much more interactive presentation of the Faith that includes teaching through skits, music, games, and small group discussion, rather than the more typical classroom model found in CCD/PREP. The format we use is far more engaging for the children in their learning process, and, believe it or not, they enjoy it.

This change has allowed us to move the present 7th grade students who have already been Confirmed rather seamlessly into our Life Teen Program, which over the next two years will be a two-tiered model—one for 7th and 8th graders (and next year only for 8th graders) and the other for 9th through 12th graders. This format allows us to teach the truths of Faith to our children in an age-appropriate manner, where the younger ones are not intimidated by the older ones, and the high school youth do not find themselves being talked "down to".

Finally, we have arranged for the Catechetical Institute of Philadelphia to provide courses at our Parish Center to all of our catechetical instructors, whether it be CCD/PREP teachers and aides; LTJV and Life Teen Core Members; RCIA instructors or CAFÉ Team Members. Taking these courses will lead to Religious Education Certification in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This is another recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Education. It will also lead to far better understanding of the truths of our Faith and updated pedagogy to our volunteers. All members of the parish are also invited to take the courses at a cost of only \$50 per course.

While I am very aware that these changes will challenge the comfortable rhythms of some families, I believe that it is my first priority as pastor and ours as a parish to provide the best religious education experience for our children so that we can give the greatest assistance to you, their parents, in your most important responsibility—raising your children in the ways of the God who has entrusted them to you.

Your brother in Christ,

Father Eschbach



Early Learning Center

"We're like a family here and the principal and director, were acted Reunion. On Saturday, September minds and hearts within the glo laughs while looking back over ye the now junior and senior high se attended the ELC moved on to c reminisce while engaging in fun.

The event took place at the Schu Appolloni -- homemade food by Darren Hodorovich and Donna Martin, face painting, group photos and other family-oriented activities.

The ELC offers preschool programs for ages 2½ to kindergarten and prides itself on family involvement inside and outside the classroom. In the past 10 years, hundreds of children from dozens of families have passed through our small school. Establish a program for young children which our children, our church and community. Email to olcelc1163@gmail.com.

Bereavement

by Alan Reger

Our parish is blessed to have a ministry of family members when a parishioner dies. The Bereavement Committee provides a full luncheon, a ministry of compassion and love to the family. This tradition was brought through his experience at Most Holy common practice for parishioners is a dish funeral luncheon for grieving

When the parish office is notified of a death, the Bereavement Committee assists the family in coordinating prayers and music for the Mass at St. Donna Martin, the Bereavement Committee, begins contacting parishioners 20 - 30 parishioners prepare hot food for the funeral. Donna purchases the parable of the Loaves and the washing all the dishes - the luncheon grace and dedication of the volunteers between 22 and 450 people served

Any costs for the luncheon are covered by the parish. Indeed Father Eschbach has insisted that if a family wishes to make a donation to the Rector's Office.

If you are interested in joining

Early Learning Center Celebrates 10 Years by Molly Bortree & Charlene McCaw

"We're like a family here and that's what we're celebrating." Those words, offered by Janice Dagney, Early Learning Center (ELC) principal and director, were acted out again and again as students, siblings, moms and dads reunited during the fun-filled ELC Family Reunion. On Saturday, September 8th, the school and its student family celebrated 10 years of learning, growing and shaping young minds and hearts within the glow of Christ's love. Nearly 200 attendees, representing over 60 families, shared stories, pictures and laughs while looking back over years of parking lot chitchat, play dates, growing friendships and community parenting. Most telling were the now junior and senior high school students who were among the first to go through the school in its early years. Many children who attended the ELC moved on to different schools and this was an opportunity for them to catch up with old friends and teachers and reminisce while engaging in fun activities for the whole family.

The event took place at the Schneider Parish Center. Children and parents enjoyed an appearance by "Sir Bubblelot"--our own Brian Appolloni -- homemade food by Darren Hodorovich and Donna Martin, face painting, group photos and other family-oriented activities.

The ELC offers preschool programs for ages 2½ to kindergarten and prides itself on family involvement inside and outside the classroom. In the past 10 years, hundreds of children from dozens of families have passed

through our small school. Established in 2002, the ELC began with five children and a vision, and has blossomed into a remarkable program for young children which includes a full day kindergarten program. This is just one example of how the ELC positively impacts our children, our church and community. If you're interested in learning more about OLC /ELC please visit www.olcelc.com or send an email to olcelc1163@gmail.com.



Bereavement Committee

by Alan Reger

Our parish is blessed to have a ministry in place to step in and assist family members when a parishioner dies. Our Bereavement Committee provides a full luncheon following the funeral service as a ministry of compassion and love for the deceased and his or her family. This tradition was brought to OLC by Father Eschbach through his experience at Most Precious Blood parish where it was common practice for parishioners to prepare and serve a covered dish funeral luncheon for grieving families and friends.

When the parish office is notified about a funeral, office representatives assist the family in coordinating a date, time and selecting prayers and music for the Mass and service. At the same time, Donna Martin, the Bereavement Committee coordinator since 2003, begins contacting parish volunteers. For a typical luncheon, 20 – 30 parishioners prepare hot and cold dishes, fruit platters and desserts which they bring to the Schneider Parish Center on the day of the funeral. Donna purchases and cooks many of the main dishes. The kitchen is a busy place and the food seems to multiply as in the parable of the Loaves and the Fishes. Volunteers set up tables and chairs and clean up after the luncheon. Clean-up also involves washing all the dishes – the luncheon is served on china with silverware – no paper or plastic! Donna summed it up - "Without the grace and dedication of the volunteers, we could never do this". Typically, there are 10 – 12 luncheons each year varying in size between 22 and 450 people served. The luncheon for Father Schneider's funeral in 2005 was the largest to date.

Any costs for the luncheon are covered through the parish's general fund. The luncheon is always provided at no charge to the family – indeed Father Eschbach has insisted that the parish will never accept a donation from the family at the time of the luncheon. If the family wishes to make a donation to defray the cost, they are asked to simply put it in the Offertory at Sunday Mass or mail it to the Rectory.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Donna at olcbereavement@olchurch.org or call the rectory.



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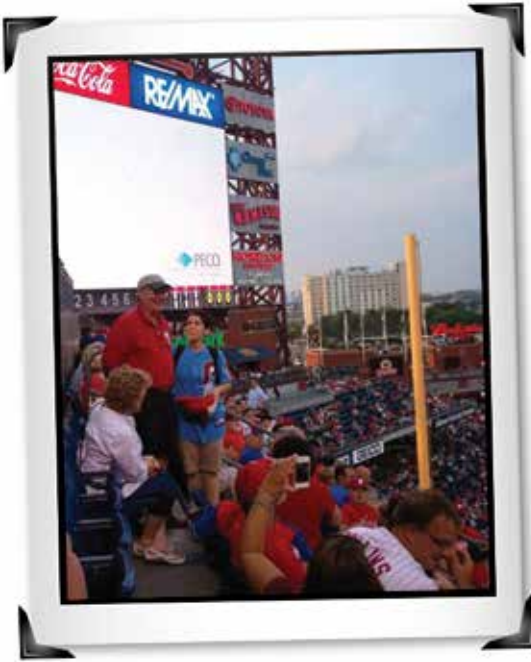
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Who Needs the Nationals?

So the Washington Nationals decided they didn't want to sell group tickets to bus loads of Phillies fans to their home games. Did it stop us from going to a ballgame? Heck no!

On Wednesday evening, August 8th, Pastoral Council chairman Bill Mann brought 54 of his "closest friends" along with him to Citizens Bank Park to see the Phillies play the Atlanta Braves. The date was significant for Bill because he was celebrating his 61st birthday that evening, surrounded by his friends and church family. His name appeared on the huge scoreboard and he was serenaded with a hearty rendition of "Happy Birthday" by everyone in the group, all while being doused with confetti. In the 5th inning, our group name was also featured on the scoreboard.

We left the Schneider Parish Center at 4:45 pm and we were in our seats well before game time, giving everyone a chance to grab a pre-game hot dog and beverage and a chance to do some souvenir shopping. Then we settled down on a warm August evening to enjoy the game.

Jimmy Rollins gave us a reason to believe this was going to be a good night by leading off the Phillies' first inning with a home run. Unfortunately, the Braves responded with a lengthy 2nd inning rally and went ahead 4-1. As the sun was setting, Ryan Howard hit a three run bomb to tie the game and get the ballpark rocking. But....as had been the case in many Phillies losses this year, the bullpen squandered the opportunity to send us home happy by falling apart and allowing the Braves to take a 12-6 decision.

The bus ride home was subdued, but not unpleasant, and we arrived at the Schneider Parish Center just before midnight. The faithful fans, many who



have attended all 5 trips, were already talking about how we're going to see the Phillies win when we go next year.

Check the weekly Bulletin in the spring, as well as the website www.olcchurch.org for information regarding our next Phillies trip in 2013.



Cafe Corner by Paul Harkins

The Schneider Parish Center has been filled with enthusiasm and lively conversation on Thursday evenings as the Catholicism series unfolds.

The series, created by Fr. Robert Barron and presented on DVD, was filmed throughout 15 countries and beautifully portrays the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The 40-50 participants break into groups to discuss each evening's topic.

Here's what participants are saying:

"An opportunity to learn or re-learn the foundations of our faith through intellectual debate with fellow parishioners and spiritual insight from one of our faith's inspiring scholars. Recommended for anyone."

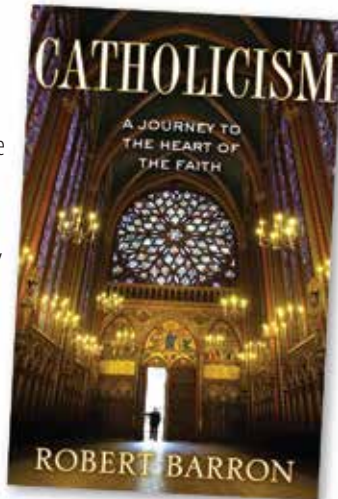
-- Anita O'Meara

"The Catholicism film series transports you all over the world. As a result, I've come to a deeper understanding of just how big and beautiful our religion is. I also enjoy the group discussions each evening."

-- Jack Reece

"We enjoy the way Father Barron teaches. His beautiful pictures from around the world, which have such meaning, help us have a better understanding of his explanations and descriptions of our faith. And in every class for us there has been an eye opening moment."

-- Lori & Larry Woolley



Thanks to Angie Raabe and Paul Harkins for coordinating this CAFE event. If you missed this session of the series Catholicism, it will be repeated in the spring if enough interest is expressed.

A Celtic Christmas in Doe Run

HOLIDAY CONCERT SERIES

You are cordially invited to celebrate the festive Christmas Season with the timeless gift of music! Attend one of two Celtic performances held at the Historic St. Malachi's in Doe Run on Sunday December 2nd and the 9th at 4:00 pm. Enjoy magnificent music, holiday hors d'oeuvres and the warmth and magic of the holiday season. Adult tickets cost \$20. Tickets for children 6 to 17 years old cost \$5. Ticket price is \$5 more at the door. Family and gift-giving packages are available. Reservations are encouraged. Please call 610-383-5068 or send an email to kadaholo@verizon.net to make yours today!



OLC CONNECTION TEAM: Maureen McCormick, Newsletter Coordinator · Paul Harkins, Café Corner · Bill Mann, Editor and Printing Advisor · Charlene McCaw, Contributing Editor · Alan Reger, Contributing Editor · Marty Sannino, Parish Website Administrator · Rev. Victor J. Eschbach, Pastor · Joy Cobler, moxie!NK Design, Graphic Designer. Special thanks to parishioners Scott Cresmer and Missy Kline for providing the beautiful photographs for this edition. The OLC Connection newsletter is a monthly to bi-monthly publication depending on church events and news. Our team wishes to thank all the people who assisted us in preparing this edition. If you would like to join our team, please contact us at olcconnection@olcchurch.org.

