



The Basilica of St. Francis with its bell tower in Assisi, Italy, Sept. 6, 2011. Pope Francis has invited young economists and entrepreneurs to take part in an initiative to be launched in Assisi March 26-28, 2020. CNS photo/Paul Haring

## Pope invites Young People to Pledge to Build a New Economy

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis has invited young economists and entrepreneurs around the world to help create a "new and courageous culture" that finds new ways to do business, promote human dignity and protect the environment.

"We need to correct models of growth incapable of guaranteeing respect for the environment, openness to life, concern for the family, social equality, the dignity of workers and the rights of future generations," the pope said in a letter inviting young people to take part in a new initiative.

The initiative, to be launched at an event in Assisi March 26-28, 2020, invites young men and women studying or working in the field of economics or business to join the pope and "enter into a 'covenant' to change today's economy and to give a soul to the economy of tomorrow."

The aim is to build and promote a different kind of economy: "one that brings life not death, one that is inclusive and not exclusive, humane and not dehumanizing, one that cares for the environment and does not despoil it," the pope said in the letter, released by the Vatican May 11.

The letter, addressed to "young economists and entrepreneurs," said that given "a need to 're-animate' the economy," there was no better place to launch the initiative than in Assisi, "which has for centuries eloquently symbolized a humanism of fraternity" and peace, and would be "a fitting place to inspire a new economy."

St. Francis of Assisi is the church's "outstanding example of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology," the pope said, which is why the event in Assisi is titled "The Economy of Francis." The environment and all of creation need "a sound economy and a sustainable development that can heal its wounds and assure us of a worthy future," the pope wrote.

"Given this urgent need, each one of us is called to rethink his or her mental and moral priorities, to bring them into greater conformity with God's commandments and the demands of the common good."

"But I thought especially of inviting you, young people, because your desire for a better and happier future makes you even now a prophetic sign, pointing toward an economy attentive to the person and to the environment," he wrote.

The pope told young people that "if you listen to what your heart tells you, you will feel part of a new and courageous culture, you will not be afraid to face risks and work to build a new society."

"Your universities, your businesses and your organizations are workshops of hope for creating new ways of understanding the economy and progress, for combating the culture of waste, for giving voice to those who have none and for proposing new styles of life," he wrote.

"Only when our economic and social system no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside, will we be able to celebrate the feast of universal fraternity," Pope Francis said.

[www.catholicregister.org](http://www.catholicregister.org)

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## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

May 19, 2019

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Spiritually Energized by a Pilgrimage to Our Founder's Home

Dear Parishioners,

It is great to be back after a very spiritually energizing trip in the footsteps of St Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists. This 12-day pilgrimage helped me to appreciate St. Alphonsus more than ever. Visiting Scala, where our Congregation was born, was very special indeed. The history and meaning of this place, the cave of St. Alphonsus where our founder talked with our Lady, the community chapel with the original statue of Maria Dei Monti will continue to inspire me for years to come.

We were in St. Alphonsus Church in Rome where the original Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is so beautifully enshrined. Scala, where St Alphonsus began reaching out to the poor, is a very beautiful place with scenes of the mountains overlooking the blue sea. The town of Maiori on the Amalfi Coast is a fishing village with one of the longest beaches along the coast.

Apart from the places of historic and spiritual significance to the Redemptorists, I enjoyed visiting Assisi. That place has a very special atmosphere about it. The history and legacy of Montecassino where St Benedict set up the first monastery for his order was also amazing. For those who have never been there, it is definitely worth a visit.

I hope to organize another pilgrimage in two years' time. I would encourage people to consider going on a pilgrimage because we learn so much on these trips. What we see and experience can really help touch our hearts and deepen our faith. It was also great to make new friends. I was touched by the hospitality of so many good people we met along the way.

May our Blessed Mother help us discover new ways to keep our faith alive and invigorated when the opportunities arise.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R



*I will bless your name forever, my king and my God. - Psalm 145*

## NEWS & NOTICES

**Weekly Collection:** Sunday Mass Offering May 11 & 12: \$4,539.35. Work of Vocations: \$1, 138. Good Friday/Holy Land: \$10. OLPH Youth Ministry: \$200. Jubilee Grotto: \$20. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

**OLPH Parish/School AGM:** All are welcome to attend this AGM at 7pm Thursday May 30 at OLPH School Gym.

**Mass Time:** Morning Mass on Victoria Day May 20 is at 9am.

**PREP Pre-Registration:** The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. Pre-registration for the 2018/2019 school year is open till June 30. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email [prep.olph@rcav.org](mailto:prep.olph@rcav.org) for information.

**K of C Meeting:** The Knights of Columbus will be meeting in the Parish Hall this WEDNESDAY May 22 at 7:30 pm. ALL are welcome to attend. Refreshments together with the CWL will be served after.

**CWL Meeting:** CWL will be meeting at 7:30 pm in the Madonna Room this WEDNESDAY May 22. All ladies are welcome to attend. Refreshments together with the Knights will be served after.

**Choir Members for 11am and 5pm Mass:** The OLPH choir is seeking new members: we especially need singers who can commit to the Sunday 11am mass and Monday evening rehearsals (7-8pm). Please contact Music Director Catherine Walsh for more information: [catherine.organist@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.organist@gmail.com). If you are interested in helping out at the Sunday 5pm Youth Mass or joining OLPH Youth Ministry, please contact Theresa Barao: [olphyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:olphyouthmin@gmail.com).

**Taizé Prayer Service:** Please join us for a contemplative prayer in the tradition of the Taizé community. The evening will feature candlelight, music, and time for quiet in the midst of our busy lives. All are welcome. Takes place on Wednesday May 22 from 7pm to 8:15pm at Immaculate Conception Church in Vancouver.

**A Toolkit for Spiritual Survival:** How do we retain balance, enthusiasm, and sanity in a time when we are being bombarded by stimuli every waking hour of our day? For the inaugural retreat of the new Centre for Christian Engagement, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser and Dr. Michael Higgins have been invited to Vancouver to explore how we can create a toolkit for spiritual survival in an increasingly busy and demanding world. This open retreat includes two seminars on spirituality. Takes place on Saturday, May 25, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Mark's College in Vancouver. Register online at [stmarkscollege.ca](http://stmarkscollege.ca) for \$25 (\$12 student rate)

**Magnificat Meal:** Magnificat Vancouver invites all women to join us at our Magnificat breakfast Saturday June 1, 2019 from 10am to 12:30pm. Registration opens 9:30. Karol Wojtyla Hall 4885 Saint John Paul II Way Vancouver BC V5Z 0G3. As part of the breakfast, there will be a time of prayer for the needs of all present and an opportunity to hear one woman's experience of the transforming love of Christ in her own life. Please plan to come and bring a friend to rejoice in the presence of the Lord. Register by email at [magnificatvancouver@telus.net](mailto:magnificatvancouver@telus.net) Please include your name, phone number, email address and names of guests. Or make arrangements by phone by calling Anna @ 604-818-4919. The nonrefundable cost per ticket is \$25.00. The Walking in the Spirit Prayer Teams will be available following the breakfast for those who wish to remain for individual prayer.

**Vancouver 2019 Marian Conference:** Six international speakers will share their testimonies and share about our Catholic faith and how Our Lady played an integral role in their lives. Be inspired and edified! Enjoy spending the day with other faith-filled believers who are all children of Mary! A concert by Flaviane Montenegro and the Stella Maris Concert Choir will provide music. Vigil Mass celebrant is Archbishop Michael Miller. Catholic Exhibitors & Concession Stands will be available for attendees. Takes place on Saturday, May 25, at the Vancouver Croatian Cultural Centre from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Buy your tickets online at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca) or call 604-521-3406.

## Stewardship Reflection

*"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34)*

It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes strength and courage to love someone when we feel unappreciated, used or feel our opinion doesn't matter. It takes courage to "love my neighbor" when he may be someone I don't like, someone I don't know or someone that doesn't look like me.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

## CALENDAR

### MAY/JUNE

#### International Festival

Our International festival gatherings leading up to Pentecost Sunday have just begun. All are welcome to join in. We invite parishioners to share the food and aspects of their culture with short music or dance presentations, if you like, after the 11am Mass. If you are participating, please contact Lara. Email: [olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com). Or sign up in the foyer.

**Sunday May 26: Europe**

**Sunday June 2: The Americas**

**Sunday June 9: Pentecost Sunday BBQ**

#### OLPH Golf Fundraiser



#### OLPH Novena/Triduum & Feast



Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR of the Diocese of MacKenzie- Fort Smith and Northwest Territories is our guest speaker at this year's Triduum Novena & Talks. This will climax with a special Mass to celebrate our feast day at 5pm on Sunday June 23 to be followed by a reception and potluck dessert from parishioners. All are invited.

**Friday June 14 – Wed June 19: Novena after morning Mass**

**Thurs Novena & Talk June 20: 7pm**

**Fri Novena & Talk June 21: 7pm**

**Sat Novena & Talk June 22: 6pm**

**Sun June 23: Mass at 5pm**

Reception to follow. Please bring a dessert to share!

## ST ALPHONSUS: PILGRIMAGE STORIES

### A Spirit-Filled Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Alphonsus

We asked a few parishioners on the recent Alphonsian Pilgrimage to share their thoughts and photos.

**Kate Carr:** I knew very little about St. Alphonsus before going, and getting to learn about him in the places that he trod was very special for me. I was struck by his humility and simplicity, even after becoming Archbishop, when he sold his ring to give money to the poor.

A highlight for me was visiting the town of Scala, high in the hills of the Amalfi coast, where St. Alphonsus started the Redemptorist order. Also, celebrating Mass in the chapel dedicated to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, in the Redemptorist house there. The chapel houses the statue of Santa Maria dei Monti which St. Alphonsus himself prayed before. I am grateful to Fr. Babu for making the journey possible and to all my fellow travelers for helping to make it so enjoyable.

**Elizabeth Hii:** The highlight of my trip was Scala. Our bus had to climb up the narrow winding road to get to the grotto. I was imagining how Alphonso did the traveling those days as he was from Naples which is quite far away. Someone in our group said he probably travelled on horseback. We went to the museum of Alphonso in Scala and saw most of the treasures that belonged to him and also saw some of the paintings he did. I didn't know that Alphonso was also a painter before my trip. And I also saw the bed where he died.

Our group was very good. We started our day with a prayer led by Fr. Babu in the bus and we asked St Alphonsus and Mother Mary to intercede for us. This was often followed by a hymn led by Alexa, the daughter of the tour coordinator who came with us. She was very smart and a big entertainer in the bus. She turned 5 on May 9 so we celebrated her birthday together with the group.

**Monica Cheung:** I read about the life and work of St Alphonsus before our trip. He was really a great moral theologian and doctor of the Church. It was good to know about his life before the trip but I didn't know that there was an Alphonsian Academy, a pontifical institute of higher learning in Rome in his name, which specializes in teaching moral theology. It currently has about 200 students. That was very impressive.

We had the opportunity to visit the cave where St Alphonsus would retreat to for prayer and there our Blessed Mother appeared to him many times and he had conversations with her about matters of the Congregation. I didn't know about the frequent apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to him. At the basilica in Pagani, we saw St Alphonsus' room. We saw his paintings, his vestments, his piano where he composed the famous Christmas carol, *Tu scendi dalle stelle*. It was very moving to be in the room where he lived and prayed. In Scala, you can still see sheep and shepherds looking after them, just like in the days of St Alphonsus. The traffic had to stop every so often to let the sheep pass. It's a very pastoral setting, not at all touristy.

### Visit the Sick and Dying: They Need to Know They Are Valued

By Louise Merrie

One of the most important works of mercy we can do is to visit the sick. As we are living in a time where there is a movement to euthanize people with chronic illnesses and to encourage them to seek death through physician-assisted suicide, they need to know that their lives have value because they are loved by God. As Catholics, we can witness to God's love and show people who are sick that we love them too. In *Evangelium Vitae*, St. John Paul II explains that the sick need to know people care about them: "The request which arises from the human heart in the supreme confrontation with suffering and death, especially when faced with the temptation to give up in utter desperation, is above all a request for companionship, sympathy and support in the time of trial. It is a plea for help to keep on hoping when all human hopes fail." (67)

It is our role as Catholics to encourage people who are sick or dying and give them hope. Unfortunately, some people are uncomfortable visiting the sick and may even avoid visiting their relatives. Perhaps they are afraid of contracting an illness in a hospital or nursing home, or are upset by seeing someone who is suffering, or don't want to be reminded of their own mortality. Other people may become busy with work or taking care of their family, and think they have no time. Consequently, many sick people are left alone.

My first experience with pastoral care ministry to the sick was while volunteering in a parish in England. A priest asked if I would accompany him on his visits to parishioners who were homebound, in hospitals and in nursing homes. From Father Liam, I learned how to listen to, talk to, and pray with people suffering from illness and loneliness. Father Liam also taught me to prepare for a visit by prayer and often prayed the Rosary with me on the way to see the parishioners.

Visiting the sick, one of the corporal works of mercy, can also involve some of the spiritual works of mercy. You may have to counsel a person who is doubtful, instruct a person who is ignorant of God's love or the value of suffering, or comfort a person who is sorrowful. You will pray for the people you visit while they are living and after they die. Indeed, prayer is the greatest way you will help them. There are many opportunities to visit the sick. We can visit relatives, friends or neighbors with health problems, volunteer for pastoral care ministry in our parish or diocese or volunteer at a hospital or nursing home. People with dementia are among the most forgotten of the sick. They still need visitors and often respond to people's kindness. It is helpful to receive some training in communicating with people with dementia.

If we know people who are sick who live a long distance from us, we can still show we care by writing cards, letters, and emails, and calling to talk with them. It is important not to make people feel you are doing them a favor by visiting them. Their spending time with us should be seen as a gift. We should ask if it is a good time for a visit and how long they would like us to stay. We should let people who are sick know they are needed. By their prayers and by offering up their suffering to God, they are helping others. Being present with people in health care facilities can be one of the ways to bring about a culture of life and end the euthanasia movement. Not only will you be giving encouragement to the people with health problems, but you will also give an example of true mercy to the people who work in those facilities, who may not all accept the Church's pro-life teachings. By our spending time with the patients, it shows that their lives are valuable.

As he related in *There Are No Accidents*, when Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR was recovering from his accident in 2004, he observed there were many people in the nursing home where he was staying who were all alone and asked: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if, in our society, it became a custom among Christians to visit one sick person or lonely person in a nursing home or hospital every week?"

