



*Mother Olga Yaqob,
foundress of the
Daughters of Mary of
Nazareth, feels called to be
a bridge between peoples*

From the Pastor's Desk

We have all been watching and hearing stories in the news lately of violence and hate and hate-mongering. Whether its gun violence, war, race related issues, fear of terrorism, etc. we all need reminding that we as Christians are called to be signs of hope and reconciliation. Jesus is the only answer that will silence the voices of hate. It is the witness of believers who refuse to act and speak like our secular culture which seems to be promoting division and disrespect. I thought this story of Mother Olga and her sisters and their work among the poor and lost would encourage all of us.

Mother Olga Yaqob has seen a lot in her 49 years, having lived through four wars in her native Iraq and started a new life in America. But she had never witnessed a birth like the one that occurred at a local Boston area hospital this past month.

"She was with a woman who was going through a very difficult labor, so she dropped to her knees and started praying," said Pat Dembrowski, a case manager at a women's shelter where Mother Olga ministers. "The medical team asked her to remove herself from the floor, which she wouldn't do until the baby was born safely, which he was. There was a point where they were losing both the baby and the mother. Mother was there the whole time. ... We attributed the safe birth to her faith and the faith of the mom because the baby's heart had stopped beating." The little one and his mom are now home from the hospital and doing well. They live at Friends of the Unborn, the shelter in Quincy, Mass. Mother Olga and eight Daughters of Mary of Nazareth have lived at nearby St. Joseph's Convent since last October and regularly attend Mass in the chapel at Friends of the Unborn.

Mother Olga has been like a mother to several women at the shelter, as many are immigrants and alone in this country. She knows what it's like. When she was still relatively new in Boston, she was diagnosed with cancer and had to go through the treatment by herself in a foreign country.

Growing up in Iraq made her tough, to be sure, but she attributes her resiliency to faith. She said that from a very young age she has had the grace of abandonment to divine providence. "If I have eight sisters today and I die 10 years from now and still have eight sisters, praise the Lord," she said recently, discussing the religious community she started five years ago.

"That's His will. If it happens that sisters will come after I die, praise His name. That's His will. I'm just doing His work. This community is not mine; it's His. Mother Olga discussed her own background and her current work in an interview with Al-eteia and in a recent talk at the Portsmouth Institute in Rhode Island.

Born in Kirkuk, she grew up in the Assyrian Church of the East. In 1980, when she was 13, her country and neighboring Iran entered into a long and bloody war. Because of a belief that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons in schools, her middle school was bombed. "I saw so many dead bodies around me, from classmates and teachers," she recalled. "At age 16 I volunteered in my church because we had five, six funerals every day. They used to bring burned, dead bodies from the war zone. We couldn't even identify them. I used to watch family members come close to identify their loved ones: a new bride, pregnant, who spent just a month with her husband before he was deployed, coming to identify her husband and she couldn't even see his face because they just brought the lower part of his body, hearing all these words, witnessing the sorrow and grief of my people, year after year."

She clung to hope. "My strength and my courage was from the cross; it was from Jesus, who promised our fortitude and courage is not of human beings but of heavenly power," she said. Then, in 1990, Saddam invaded Kuwait. The ensuing Gulf War "took my country back 200 years," Mother Olga said. "We used to walk miles and miles to find an old well to get water. We didn't have electricity. I used to volunteer in a children's hospital, where we had just one incubator, and watching babies die without making it to get to that incubator, and watching the grief of parents."

The embargo the West imposed for the next 12 years prevented Iraq from recuperating, she maintained. "We ended up with 60% of the people not able to read or write. How can we expect a country to rebuild itself with such a high illiteracy rate and without any resources when the country is under embargo?"

Still refusing to despair, she started a movement called Love Your Neighbor, gathering Muslims and Christians to beg for food, clothes and medicine for those left handicapped from

From the Pastor Continued . . .

war, elderly people who had lost their homes, and their young children. “When I hear what is happening in my country — about persecuted Christians and what Muslims are doing to Christians — this is a foreign thing to me because I worked bringing Muslims and Christians together,” she said. “That’s why I studied Islam, I studied the Quran from cover to cover, in order to work with them and build bridges between Christians and Muslims, so we can rebuild our country and heal the wounds of our people from those wars.”

In 1995 she established the order of Marth Maryam Sisters—Missionaries of the Virgin Mary, the first order of religious sisters in the Assyrian Church of the East in 700 years. She went to Boston for studies in 2001, just before the 9/11 attacks, and in 2003, her host country led an invasion of her native land. She returned to Iraq and ministered to both Iraqi people and US troops. “I felt I was called to be that bridge,” she explained.

In time, she returned to Boston to finish a Master’s degree but soon had to undergo treatment for her cancer. With no local Assyrian Church of the East to belong to, she decided to become a Roman Catholic. She was hired by the Archdiocese of Boston to serve in campus ministry at Boston University. Kathleen Troost-Cramer had just begun working on a doctorate in theology and was exploring the possibility of returning to the Catholic Church after several years away. She approached campus ministry and found Sister Olga, whom she remembers as “amazingly, incredibly open and welcoming and nonjudgmental.”

“She had this way of being totally honest with me about the Church’s teaching and some of the choices I had made in my life, but also a depth of compassion that I found to be very rare,” said Troost-Cramer, who finished her Ph.D in May and does online teaching as well as writing. “I was attending an Episcopal church at the time, but told her I was somehow moved to say the rosary. I said it felt like Mary was trying to reach out to me. She said, ‘When you pray each bead it’s like taking a step toward Our Lady and Our Lady takes a step toward you.’”

After five years at BU, Sister Olga felt ready to go home, but Cardinal Sean O’Malley invited her to stay and discern the possibility of starting a new community. The archdiocese—and the Church at large—was going through its own turmoil since 2002, when *The Boston Globe* began an expose of the clergy sex abuse scandal and cover up. “He really wanted to emphasize the face of the motherhood of the Church, to bring that healing, the face of mercy, into the archdiocese,” Mother Olga recalled. “Because of the scandal, a lot of people left the Church...and to reach out to those who had been hurt, wounded, to be able to be present in the local Church.”

The Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, a private association of the faithful, was founded in 2011. It focuses on the corporal works of mercy, serving in hospitals, nursing homes, and parishes. The community is guided by Blessed Charles de Foucauld’s “spirituality of Nazareth.” As the community’s website explains: He lived his life imitating the example of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, so are we called to live in a daily intimacy with Jesus. Starting our daily life with Jesus in prayer and adoration will transform us so that we may become little vessels of His presence wherever we serve. Our prayer life is nourished by daily Communion, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacred Scripture, and Marian devotions.

Cardinal O’Malley asked an old professor of his, fellow Capuchin Father Robert McCreary, who specializes in the spirituality of Nazareth, to assist in the formation of the community. “They are very dedicated to the Church,” Father McCreary said of the young sisters. “They live community life, they’re prayerful and they serve the poor. The spirituality of Nazareth has a lot to do with the simplicity of life that Mother Olga would want her sisters to live,” he said. “She would want them to be very approachable, like a neighbor. She would want them to be very prayerful, like the Holy Family would be at Nazareth, but aware of the neighborhood and what needs there are. Her young sisters are taught to be very gracious and hospitable in any context.”

That graciousness intersects with what Mother Olga sees as a growing need for bridge-building in a world beset by fear. Asked about Muslim-Christian relations in the midst of terrorism and uncertainty about Middle Eastern refugees, Mother Olga said: Sometimes I teach my daughters words like ‘Salaam Alaykum,’ and tell them, ‘Whenever you see Muslim women, especially those in hijab, just try to greet them in their own greetings, just as a sign of acknowledgment. And they’ve seen the difference over the years, even if it’s in the grocery store or at the gas station or CVS. They tell me, ‘It’s amazing, Mother, just how one greeting can open the door for conversation.’ It makes them feel like ‘I respect you or I’m not afraid of you.’

But is she worried about the Church in her homeland being persecuted out of existence? “The Church has experienced persecution from the 1st century, but the Lord has always promised us He will triumph,” she said. She recalls a time when Muslims and Christians lived not only as neighbors but as family, baking for one another’s holy days and minding one another’s children. “My Muslim neighbor would never come to my church and blow himself up to kill my brother and sister who shared the same table, the same bread, the same milk, the same cup of water,” she explained. “But what you see today in Iraq and Syria are people who have suffered so much from war and violence, and extremists who came from elsewhere into my country because the borders were open after war, and took advantage of the brokenness of my country after all those wars, took advantage of the brokenness of my people and brainwashed them.”

Of her current life, she says, “Spiritually the Lord has entrusted me with the cross to raise this new community in the Archdiocese of Boston, the diocese that has suffered so much, and to be that source of hope. I have said yes, not because I believe I have something to offer, but because I believe in the one who can do this work, and I am only following in the steps of the one who said yes 2000 years ago. She teaches me every day how to believe that there’s nothing impossible for God.”

May God bless our Church throughout the world to be ambassadors of peace and reconciliation.

God bless, Fr. Dennis

Sponsor of the Week

Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.

Antes Concrete & Masonry

Announcements



World Youth Day

Please remember to keep in your prayers our young people who will be leaving this Sunday, July 17th for World Youth Day in Poland. Let's pray for their safety and for the Holy Spirit to bless and inspire the thousands of young people who will gather with the Holy Father in Poland. May the Spirit of Love and Courage fill the hearts of our young people and inspire them to return with renewed zeal for the faith and a desire to serve the Church.

Summer workers

Just a reminder that the next day for the young people to come and help in the garden is Tuesday, July 26th. The young people must have submitted their permission form to the parish office before this date. The final date for the young people will be Wednesday, August 17th.



Pope Francis encourages daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament

In his message to the Italian Church as they prepare for their annual Eucharistic Congress in September, Pope Francis quoted *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Second Vatican Council's document of the Liturgy, which speaks of the Eucharist as "*a Sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity.*"

The Holy Father commented in his message:

"I want to encourage everyone to visit – if possible, every day – especially amid life's difficulties, the Blessed Sacrament of the infinite love of Christ and his mercy, preserved in our churches, and often abandoned, to speak filially with Him, to listen to Him in silence, and to peacefully entrust yourself to Him."

We are blessed here at Most Holy Trinity to have our church open daily from 7:00 am. till 7:00 pm. Many churches because of security concerns cannot do this. Not only that, we have adoration regularly and Holy Hour on Wednesday's from 6:00 till 7:00 pm. and on the Thursday before First Friday of every month and on First Friday after the morning Mass till noon. I encourage all of us to take a moment, whether we're walking on by the church or struggling with family or personal issues to think about stopping in and spending a few moments with Our Lord in the Tabernacle. Powerful graces are waiting for us in those moments of silence and prayer with Jesus our Master.

MHT Scrip – Summer Schedule

Scrip that is kept in stock will be available at the parish office from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Scrip orders will continue to be placed each Monday throughout the summer.**

Scrip offers a wide range of gift cards for all of your summer vacation needs; gas, shopping, dining, entertainment and hotels. Visit shopwithscrip.com for a complete list.

Principal of Most Holy Trinity School
Anne Hufnagel—AnneH@mhtparish.com

MHT School – Connecting Faith to Life

Registration: Registration for Most Holy Trinity School will be ongoing throughout the summer months. The following URL and QR code will still be active or you can email me at principal@mhtparish.com to get more information, to schedule a visit, or to register.
<http://goo.gl/forms/Hxq5uzMXKS>



Teaching Position: Most Holy Trinity School in Fowler, MI, is accepting resumes and cover letters for two middle school teaching positions (grades 5 – 8) for the 2016-17 school year. One position will be full-time and one will be part-time. We are looking for certified middle school teachers of all subjects, but in particular mathematics and religion. All applicants must hold a current and valid teaching certificate from the State of Michigan, preferably being highly qualified in middle school mathematics. The successful candidate must be dynamic, energetic, and willing to work collaboratively in a team environment. Applicants must be practicing Catholics who are enthusiastic about incorporating the Catholic faith in their teaching. The ideal applicant will be a teacher who has a genuine passion for teaching in a Catholic school, a high comfort level in managing a classroom of fully engaged learners, a commitment to joyful collegiality, an ability to communicate effectively with parents, and a strong foundation in subject matter awareness.

Resumes will be accepted through Friday, July 22, 2016, and should be sent to the following address:

Most Holy Trinity School

Attn: Anne Hufnagel

545 N. Maple St.

Fowler, MI, 48835

or via email: principal@mhtparish.com

News & Events From Our Parish & Other Areas



50/50 Support the Faith Raffle

Thank you to all who took part in the Knights of Columbus Support the Faith 50/50 raffle. This week's winners of \$100 each are **Dan Feldpausch, Jim Andros, and Rick Schafer**. Tickets are still available for the 23 remaining drawings and can be purchased by contacting Kurt Koenigsknecht or Kurt Thelen.

Looking for Host Families

A Youth Choir from the beautiful medieval town of Luebeck, in northern Germany will be coming to St. Johns for a brief visit from Jul 24-27. We are looking for good host families to house the students for the 3 nights. We have done this many times in the past; it is a wonderful experience - an engaging cultural experience that you and your family will thoroughly enjoy. The students are ages 14-19 - there are also 5 adult leaders coming with the group. Please contact Bill Tennant at: wetennat@gmail.com or by phone at 517-712-7341. Thank you!

Catholic Order of Foresters Meeting

The next Catholic Order of Forester Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 20th at the VFW hall at 7:00 pm.



*Most Holy Trinity Parish
Festival News
July 28, 29, 30 & 31*

Quilts & Afghans: We are looking for a few more afghan donations for this year's raffle. Perhaps you have a finished project in storage waiting for a lucky home? Please consider a donation to the parish festival this year. Call or text Diane Smith 593-9947 for information.

Festival Dinner Pie & Cheesecake Donations: In lieu of donating baked goods for the Country Store you can bake 2 pies or 2 cheese cakes (16 slices) for the festival dinner. To participate you must sign-up in back of church. For the dinner we can accept single or double crusted pies. So bake your favorite pies or cheese cakes. The dinner baked goods can be delivered to the dessert prep station located in the Activity.

Country Store: All families are asked to donate baked goods to the Country Store OR sign up in the back of church to bring a cheesecake or pies to the dinner. Please bring baked goods to the Country Store located in the Esper Room between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Sunday, July 31st. Items should be placed in non-returnable containers, zip-lock bags, or other unused bags and marked with the type of baked good.

Below is a list of the requested baked goods:

Last Name	Item to bring
G,I,J,K,O,W	3 Dozen Cinnamon Rolls
D,E,F,P,Q,T,V,Z	4 Dozen Cookies, Bars or Brownies
C,H,L,M,R,U	2 Double Crusted Pies
A,B,N,S,Y	3 Loaves of Homemade Bread
	(No bread machine or frozen dough)

A \$10 donation is requested if it is not possible to donate a baked good.

Arts & Crafts: Collection has begun for the Arts and Crafts donations for the Parish Festival. *Talent Search! For handmade things.* Don't think you are crafty enough to make something? Then be a bargain shopper! Take advantage of sales. It's always fun to find nicer items on sale for the suggested expenditure of \$7.

Suggestions: Household, children & baby items. School or team affiliation, MSU, U of M, Fowler Eagles, Detroit Tigers. Anything summer. Christmas items don't move well.

All women and single men (18 & older) are asked to donate an item of \$7. Please include your name with the item. Donations can be left in designated boxes by all church entrances. Don't fret if you miss donating; contributions will be accepted at the Arts & Crafts booth at the picnic.

Car Show: Thursday night July 28 downtown Fowler.

Fowler Downtown Sidewalk Sales: Downtown businesses will have sidewalk sales on Friday, July 29th from 9:30 am – 5:30 pm and Saturday, July 30th from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Social Tent: Friday: July 29 from 6:00 to 7:00pm Happy Hour (1/2 off drinks) 7:00 - 11:30 pm Drinks, pulled pork and pizza. Vegas game room, Blackjack, Let it Ride, Money Wheel. You must be 21 to enter.

Volleyball Tournament: It is a 4 on 4 co-ed outdoor tournament on Saturday, July 30th behind the Waldron Middle School in Fowler. Cost is \$80 per team. There is a competitive and recreational division. The tournament starts at 8:00 am, but teams should arrive at least 15 minutes early for registration. To sign your team up, please contact Mitchel Thelen by phone (989)-640-6950 or email at mitchelthelen@gmail.com. The deadline to sign up is July 28th. Hope to see everyone there.

Touch A Truck: Will take place Saturday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Most Holy Trinity Parish grounds. All boys and girls are invited to come and see the "Big Rigs" up close. Learn how they work and find out what all those gadgets are for! Don't miss your chance to sit in the driver's seat at Touch A Truck!

Family Movie Night: This year's movie feature is "The Incredibles". The movie will be shown on Saturday, July 30 on a large canvas at Fink Field with concessions under the pavilion. The movie starts at dusk. Come join us for this great family event. If inclement weather, the movie will be canceled.

Calling All Super Hero's! Want to be a "Super Hero" at the parish festival this year? If you dressed as a Super Hero for Halloween and want to wear your costume again, here is your chance!!! Wear your costume on Saturday evening during the Family Movie Night presentation (the movie is "The Incredibles") and again on Sunday as you ZAP! ZAM! and POW! your day away at the festival. Hope to see all you Super Heroes at the festival!!! **SHAZAM!!!!**

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament: Sunday July 31. A registration form and \$60 team entry fee are due July 18. Entry forms are available online at www.mhtparish.com or by calling Tim Andros at 989-666-3314.

Parade: Sunday, July 31th – The theme is "Super Heroes". There will be cash prizes (1st place - \$75, 2nd place - \$50, and 3rd place - \$25) awarded for the top three floats using the theme. Please meet at the water tower by 10:45 a.m. for registration and instructions. For more information please call Dave & Amy Klein (989) 640-3535.

Bean Bag Toss Tournament: All kids from 1 to 100 are invited to give it their best shot in this fun and entertaining competition Sunday, July 31 starting at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Cash prizes will be awarded. Sign up with Sally or Rob Becker at the Bean Bag Toss table.

Inflatables: The kids will be sure to have a great time all day when you bring them to the Inflatables. They can jump all day long (from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.!) Just purchase a "jump all day wristband" at the games ticket booth.

Special Raffle: A 50" Panasonic HDTV. A clock and piece of furniture handcrafted by Domik Feldpausch.

Most Holy Trinity

July 17, 2016

Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard

Parish Office Hours 8am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

To Contact Us:

Parish Office: 593-2162

Fax: 593-2171

E-Mail: office@mhtparish.comWebsite: mhtparish.com

Most Holy Trinity School: 593-2616

**Masses For The Week****Monday - July 18**

7:00 p.m. + Joseph Schueller, Including Riley

Tuesday - July 198:15 a.m. **No Mass****Wednesday - July 20**

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

7:00 p.m. + George Weber & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Thursday - July 218:15 a.m. **No Mass****Friday - July 22**

8:15 a.m. + Ken Halfmann & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Saturday - July 238:15 a.m. **No Mass**

1:00 p.m. Wedding of Cody Jackson & Sarah Mecham

4:30 p.m. + Marvin Simon

Sunday - July 24

8:30 a.m. People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. + Neal Snyder

Ushers for Saturday & Sunday, July 23 & 24

4:30 p.m. - Jim Koenigsnecht, Luke Hufnagel, Kevin Feldpausch, Volunteer

8:30 p.m. - Alan Kramer, Gerry Schomisch, Philip Schmitt, Ralph Feldpausch

10:30 a.m. - David Klein, Brent McCarty, Roy Witgen, Neil Feldpausch

Mass Servers for Saturday & Sunday, July 23 & 24

4:30 p.m. - Nolan, Madison & Mitchell Wirth, Charlie Boak

8:30 a.m. - Kayla Schafer, Owen Simon, Kylie & Macy Spicer

10:30 a.m. - McKenzie, Josie & Cooper Koenigsnecht, Jared Snyder

Mass Servers During This Week

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Tristan Smith, Rebecca Smith

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - No Mass

Wed., 7:00 p.m. - Trey Thelen, Bryce Ward

Thur., 8:15 a.m. - No Mass

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Mary Beth Wohlfert, Evan Curtiss

Sat., 8:15 a.m. - No Mass**Masses Cancelled**

The following Masses have been cancelled for this week:

Tuesday, July 19th at 8:15 am**Tuesday, July 21st at 8:15 am****Saturday, July 23rd at 8:15 am**

Sorry for the inconvenience.

Our Parish Stewardship**God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

July 9 & 10 Collection..... \$ 13,824.00

Parish Collections

Capitol Improvement.....\$20.00

Newspapers and Periodicals.....\$37.00

**Hailey Ann Schueller**; Daughter of Ryan & Whitney (Epkey) Schueller.

We welcome Hailey to our parish family.

Readings for the Week of July 17, 2016

Monday	Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Psalms 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, and 23; Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalms 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8; Matthew 12:46-50
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10; Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15, and 17; Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday	Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Psalms 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11; Matthew 13:10-17
Friday	Jeremiah 3:14-17; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 20:1-2, 11-18
Saturday	Jeremiah 7:1-11; Psalms 84:3, 4, 5-6a, and 8a, 11; Matthew 13:24-30

Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering especially: Frieda Gallagher, Carl Stump, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Evan Pung, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Kenny Briganti, Sharon (Thelen) Droste, Theresa Fox, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Jean Schafer, Don Simon, Roman Arens, Julie Wieber Schafer, Irene (Luttig) Weber, Maryann Esch, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Fr. Bill Koenigsnecht, Dick Rehmann, Pam (Thelen) Stump, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Msgr. Sylvester Fedewa, Bryce Bongard, Gregg Platte, Charles Douglass, Fr. Dennis Howard, Frank Hufnagel, Frances Thelen, and a special intention.

Please contact the parish office to inform us when we can add or remove a person's name from the list. Thank you.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.



The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is to pray that our all the faithful, may we seek to strengthen our relationship with God through fervent prayer and service to others.



3rd Publication: Cody Jackson & Sarah Mecham