



OUR LADY OF
VICTORY

NEWS@ OUR LADY OF VICTORY



Our Lady of Victory School is a diverse, close-knit, high-achieving Catholic school with over 30 countries and 17 languages represented in its faith-filled community. With excellent educators, a dedicated principal, and small, nurturing classes, it's no surprise that its graduates are all outstanding!

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new faculty:

Shelly Taguchi has assumed the role of PK3 teacher. She has transferred from Fr. Andrew White School in Southern Maryland and holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Current OLV teacher Lovancy Ingram has accepted the position of first grade teacher. She holds a master's degree in Education and has years of experience in first grade.

In third grade, the new teacher is Maya Dunbar. She has experience with outdoor education and has transferred from a local Jewish Day school.

Bryan Hogg has assumed the role of PE teacher and coordinator of extended day. He previously worked for Prince George's County Public Schools in physical education and has served in a variety of coaching roles.

We know that all of our new and returning faculty are excited for this school year!



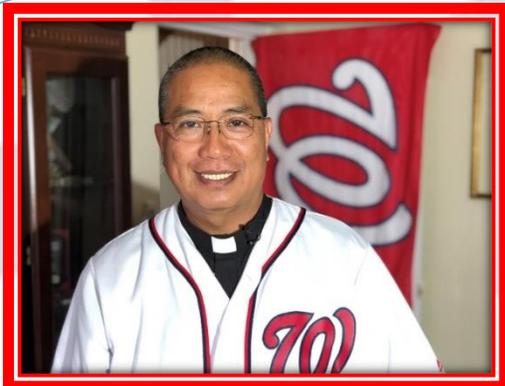
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Welcome to OLV
Father Andy Gonzalo



OLV WELCOMES A NEW PASTOR, FR. ANDY GONZALO

While Fr. Andrew Gonzalo might have left the missions in the Republic of Congo years ago, he remains "at heart, a missionary."

Named pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish by Wilton Cardinal Gregory of Washington, effective in July, "Fr. Andy" is a native of the Philippines and a former member of the Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae (CICM, known in the States as Missionhurst) for 28 years, including 17 years in the central African nation of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a sprawling, former Belgian colony formerly called Zaire.

He first came to the Congo as a religious brother and served in the Diocese of Inongo, Lac Mai Ndombe in the Province of Bandundu where he was involved particularly with the pygmies. After his priestly ordination in 1994, he continued to serve in Inongo until 2004 when he was called to render service in the capital city of Kinshasa. In 2007, he was sent to the United States to study Canon Law at the Catholic University of America.

Incardinated in the Archdiocese of Washington in June 2014, Fr. Andy has served as a parochial vicar at St. Columba Parish in Oxon Hill, Md., St. Augustine in Washington, D.C., and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament also in Washington, D.C. before becoming pastor in 2016 at St. Benedict the Moor and St. Vincent de Paul, two historically African-American parishes in the District.

"I didn't aspire to be a pastor," Fr. Andy remarked during an interview in his rectory office. Rather, fulfilling his priestly mission remains foremost in his aspirations.

While residing at St. Vincent de Paul, Fr. Andy was able to further grow the "Nats Mass" on Sundays during baseball season that his predecessor had launched - a Mass that is complete before the first pitch - since the Nationals Ballpark in the Washington Navy Yard is a short walk from St. Vincent de Paul. He sees such efforts as part of the "New Evangelization" that St. John Paul II launched while pontiff.

The Catholic Church, at its heart, aspires like Fr. Andy to be missionary since Jesus Christ was sent on a mission by His Father on this earth, and so his followers also have a mission to fulfill. In the case of a missionary, many have traditionally been called to leave their native countries to preach the Gospel in places where Jesus Christ is not known. Because of secularization in the United States and all-time low levels of affiliation among Americans with churches, the Church is also missionary in this country, a duty of laypeople, religious, and clergy.

While being a missionary in a far off land might strike many as a weighty matter, Fr. Andy is a man with a broad smile and a good sense of humor. He freely acknowledges his increased love and attachment to the Nats and appreciated the convenience at his former parish of walking up to the ticket office, purchasing a \$5.00 ticket, and checking out a game in progress. Although he now has to plan his visits to the ballpark and drive there, he is very excited about serving in Palisades at OLV where he feels blessed by the love and support of the parishioners.