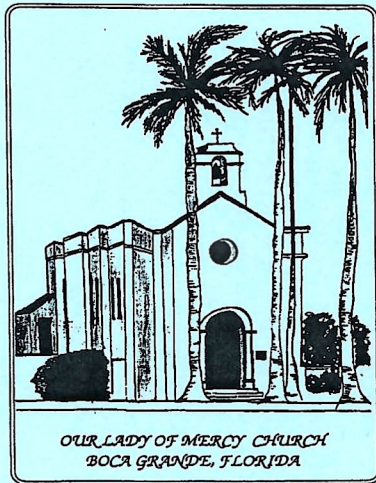




OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Saturday

5:00 pm

Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 am

Mon-Fri

8:00 am

First Saturday Anointing

After 5:00 pm vigil

Sacrament of Penance

By appointment

Parish website address:

ourladyofmercy.church

Online Giving:

ourladyofmercy.church

Father Anthony email:

anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 5, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Luke 17:5-6

How much faith is equal to a mustard seed? A mustard seed is small, very small. It measures only about one millimeter in length. People who worked the soil at that time would have known that it was among the smallest of seeds they planted. For that reason, Jesus uses this familiar image to teach the apostles that faith, even a little faith, is powerful. Jesus' teaching comes in response to a prayer on the part of the apostles. "Increase our faith," they said. Jesus' response, inviting them to have only a little faith, implies that their faith was quite weak. To increase their faith to the size of a mustard seed suggests that they did not even have a little faith yet. Most likely they were aware of that fact, and that was the reason they asked Jesus to increase their faith. They perceived their lacking and turned to Him Who could help. One of the first steps to increasing faith is to humbly admit our lack of faith. In our pride, we often want to convince ourselves and others that we are filled with faith. But if that were the case, God would be doing incredible things through us. He would be doing that which is otherwise humanly impossible. Obviously, faith does not give us magical powers by which we can literally command a tree to uproot itself and plant itself in the sea. This imagery is meant to tell us that faith will work miracles of faith, not necessarily physical miracles. In fact, if God ever did use us and our faith to work a physical miracle, it would only happen because it was a motivation for the far more important gift of the increase of faith.

What, then, can a little faith do? It can uproot sin from your heart and from the hearts of those around you. It can nourish you and others in ways that seem impossible. Just as a tree cannot normally be planted in the sea and survive, the gift of faith, even a little faith, will enable the soul to be nourished and strengthened in ways that otherwise seem impossible. A martyr perfectly illustrates this fact. Normally, persecution and death are not considered to be nourishing to a person. But when a person has faith and suffers martyrdom on account of Christ, then their soul will be fed by the persecution itself. And that is among the greatest of miracles possible. Suffering, persecution, illness, poverty, and every other difficulty imaginable are transformed by God into a source of nourishment when we endure them with true faith. Reflect, today, upon the prayer of the apostles: "Increase our faith." Some of the greatest mystics taught that faith darkens the intellect. By this darkening, they mean that, by faith, God will lead us into the unknown, on a path that He alone is aware of. We will become instruments of His transforming grace in ways that are completely beyond our natural abilities. Pray for an increase of faith. When our Lord hears your humble prayer, by which you also confess your lack of faith, He will increase that faith, uproot sin and evil, and plant your soul in places in which you become nourished in ways that you could have never imagined possible. Amen.

Second Collection today for Respect Life.

Safe Environment Training (SET) - As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice Requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in SET prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit the Diocese of Venice website. To report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families please call 800-962-2873. Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

Thank you all for your time, talent, and treasure!

OCTOBER 2025

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

For collaboration between different religious traditions:

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.



Our Lady of Mercy Financial Comparison Statement FYE 2024 vs FYE 2023

Profit & Loss Comparison FYE 2024 vs FYE 2023	2024	2023	Balance Sheet Comparison FYE 2024 vs FYE 2023	Jun 30, 24	Jun 30, 23
Income:			ASSETS		
Offeratory Collections & Gifts	\$ 548,090.00	\$ 469,652.00	Operating Checking Account:	51,635.00	44,323.00
CFA Donations	\$ 134,595.00	\$ 176,579.00	Prepayments:		
Bequests	\$ 41,614.00	\$ 16,375.00	Diocesan Assessment	119,435.00	169,918.00
Interest Income	\$ 51,733.00	\$ 27,190.00	Operating Expense	54,801.00	48,451.00
Investment Income	\$ 122,376.06	\$ 54,754.00			
Miscellaneous	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,850.00			
Total Income	\$ 899,108.06	\$ 777,400.00			
Expenses:			Campus Land, Buildings, Plant & Equipment at cost (Fixed Assets)	6,695,547.00	6,470,192.00
Personnel related costs:			(Less Accumulated Depreciation)	-2,502,714.00	-1,984,560.00
Salaries, benefits, and taxes	\$ 172,803.00	\$ 149,009.00	Net Fixed Assets	4,192,833.00	4,485,632.00
Buildings, equipment & grounds costs:			Investment to date-OLM Parish Life Center	0.00	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 78,143.00	\$ 60,041.00	Investment & Savings Funds Held by Diocese of Venice	3,242,183.00	3,239,887.00
Utilities & Telephone	\$ 26,259.00	\$ 18,118.00			
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 48,186.00	\$ 41,169.00	Restricted Funds:		
Vehicle maintenance, tolls & insurance	\$ 3,251.00	\$ 2,090.00	Educational Support Fund	14,725.00	18,671.00
Total buildings, etc.	\$ 155,839.00	\$ 121,418.00	Building Fund-OLM Parish Life Center	484,407.00	494,494.00
Ministry:			Total Restricted Funds	499,132.00	513,165.00
Liturgy, music & publications	\$ 13,984.00	\$ 15,028.00			
Caritas	\$ 13,103.00	\$ 13,746.00	Total Assets	8,663,018.58	8,501,576.00
Total Ministry	\$ 27,087.00	\$ 28,774.00			
General & Administrative:			Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Diocesan Assessments	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 99,000.00	Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	9,983.00	3,593.00
Assistance to Diocesan Schools	\$ 65,078.00	\$ 53,000.00			
Administrative Overhead	\$ 9,896.00	\$ 19,380.00	Fund Balances:		
Parish Life Center Events, Net of Income	\$ 6,107.00	\$ 5,479.00	Retained Earnings	8,479,112.00	10,137,094.00
Depreciation	\$ 70,220.00	\$ 13,305.00	Net Income	168,819.00	-1,657,982.00
Total G & A	\$ 247,301.00	\$ 191,164.00	Educational Support Fund	14,725.00	18,671.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 603,030.00	\$ 490,364.00	Total Fund Balances	8,653,036.00	8,497,783.00
EXCESS OPERATING INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$ 296,078.06	\$ 287,036.00	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	8,663,019.00	8,501,576.00
PRIOR YEAR EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ (1,971,255.00)			
NET INCOME	\$ 296,078.06	\$ (1,684,219.00)			