

# THE VOICE

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

2018 Volume One - Spring



## A Message From Msgr. Paul Burkard:

The Our Lady of Victory organizations have been blessed for years with the presence of Mr. Richard Heist. In June, 2018, after 45 years of service to all of us here at Our Lady of Victory, Rick will be retiring from his present position as Executive Director of Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity, the fundraising arm of our Father Baker ministry. Forty five years ago, Rick began here as a social worker, assisting the children who were in residence at Our Lady of Victory. Later, under the directorship of Msgr. Robert Wurtz, Rick moved to the Homes of Charity and began this new dimension of his ministry, raising the funds needed to assist Baker Victory Services and Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and Basilica in continuing the mission of Father Baker. Rick will retire in late June, knowing that he has left his mark on all that we do here. While we will miss him, we wish him and his wife, Mary, well in retirement, and we ask God to give him many happy and healthy years ahead.



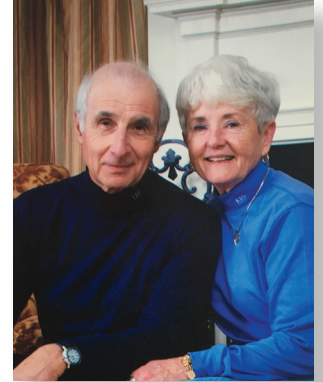
*Msgr. Paul J.E. Burkard*

**Msgr. Paul J.E. Burkard**  
*President, OLV Institutions*

## *Congratulations –YOU made it happen!*

We are so blessed to have such amazing, compassionate, and generous friends, like YOU, associated with the Homes of Charity. Because of YOU, the Capital Campaign surpassed its goal \$12 million. What a tremendous achievement! And our hearts are deeply grateful.

Tom Paonessa, a faithful donor, was asked why he supported the Capital Campaign. Tom, a retired dentist, said, “I have so much to be thankful for. You see, I was adopted from the Infant Home by wonderful, loving parents when I was nine months of age.”



Tom & Karen Paonessa

“I could not have asked for a better family.” He went on to say, “I’m a product of Father Baker’s and I can’t be more proud of it.” Because of Tom’s roots, Our Lady of Victory holds a significant place in his heart.

Tom felt good about supporting the Capital Campaign because OLV is an organization that gives loving care to all. He wants to be a part of helping others in need of love and healing and to be able to give them the same opportunity he had!

He said, “I will continue to support OLV and hope others do as well. I encourage others to look at the breadth and depth of this organization and then ask them to open their hearts to those in need.”

The cherished relationship with Tom and donors, like you, is a priceless gift! It’s only because of your great generosity and support that the Capital Campaign was so successful. Because of you, the legacy of Father Baker will continue into the future...and for that our hearts will forever be grateful!

\$12,300,000

\$8,000,000

\$4,000,000



## *Join Us for Our Annual Pilgrimage*

Our Lady of Victory invites you to join us on a journey of faith for our 2018 Annual Pilgrimage from May 9<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup>. Travel with us as we are led by Monsignor Paul Burkard on a visit to the Land of Israel – The Holy Land – as we walk in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus. For more information, please call Peter’s Way Tours at (800) 225-7662.

If you cannot be with us in person, you may join in spirit by sending your special intentions to us. We will remember you in all our Masses and prayers throughout this sacred journey. Please send your intentions to Kim Kutera at Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity at 780 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY, 14218.



*Church of All Nations*

## A 45 Year Journey... A Sit-Down with Rick Heist

A life devoted to positively impacting the lives of those we serve. A life dedicated to promoting devotion to Our Lady of Victory. A life dedicated to continuing the work of Venerable Nelson Baker and ensuring that his City of Charity lives on. On June 28, 2018, Rick Heist – the executive director of the OLV Homes of Charity - will conclude his illustrious 45 year career with the OLV organizations. *The Voice* spoke with Rick to reflect on his career, proudest achievements, and his fondest memories.

### Please tell us your history with Our Lady of Victory:

Well, I'm blessed to have worked in many positions inside the OLV organizations. Starting in August of 1973, I joined Baker Hall as a child care worker where I cared for and counseled adolescent youth. From there, I was promoted to Cottage Manager in April of 1976, and supervised child care workers in an intensive care unit named after Msgr. McPherson. In 1979, I was promoted to Cottage Director where I oversaw the operations of the cottage, and provided therapy and counseling services to individuals and families. In 1981, I was appointed Department Head for Special Services (the critical care program) where I oversaw the care of some of the state's most difficult to place young men. In 1984, I was transferred to the position of Director of The Preventative Services Program – a program that began with serving 90 individuals and eventually expanded to 180 children and their families. In 1988, at the request of Msgr. Wurtz, I accepted the position of Assistant Director of Development for the Homes of Charity; I then assumed the position of Director of Development in 1990. Following the death of Msgr. Wurtz, I assumed the role of Executive Director in April 2007.

### What is the single largest blessing you've received during your time at OLV?

I think the blessing that has given me the most fulfillment is knowing I've contributed to the care and treatment of those in need, either directly when I worked at Baker Hall or indirectly during my time at the Homes of Charity. My work has hopefully contributed in a small way to the great legacy passed on to us by Father Baker.

### How has your work personally impacted you?

First, my work at OLV is very different from other jobs I've had in the past. The primary difference is that my work here at Father Baker's has truly been a ministry. Our work is in service to others and being part of OLV is continuing a ministry began by Father Baker. This has done two things ... first it has allowed me to profess my faith through my work. Secondly, it has reinforced my faith by being able to serve in a charitable capacity. Whether working in the shadow of the dome or striving to continue Father Baker's legacy, the experience has been a tremendous honor for me.



*"One of the things that enabled this organization to be as successful as it has been in pursuing its mission is the foundation laid by those who went before us. Venerable Nelson Baker. Msgr. Robert Wurtz. Msgr. Joseph McPherson. Msgr. Robert Murphy. The Sisters of Saint Joseph. The Brothers of The Holy Innocence. Jim Casion. Bill Lang. Jerry Kehoe. They committed themselves to the mission of OLV. These people are GIANTS and we stand on their shoulders. When I reflect on what they've given to us, it is a great gift, a great responsibility, and a great privilege."*

-- Rick Heist

## How did the youth you worked with impact your life?

I've been gone from Baker Hall for almost 30 years. To this day, I have individuals I cared for directly or indirectly come back to visit or call me to see how I am doing and how things are going at "Father Baker's." Although they are adults now, they still talk about the people who worked with them. They talk about how we impacted their lives. What a tremendous blessing – to hear them tell their own life stories and their successes since they left us many years ago.

## As a new CEO assumes your role, what is your advice for that individual?

I'd tell that individual to recognize the level of talent, dedication, and commitment our employees have, both department heads and staff. Beyond that, I would say to watch, listen, and learn from the experience and expertise each individual brings to their job. There is a formal structure to the organization and an informal structure, and this individual should strive to understand those environments. Lastly, I would advise the individual to grow toward being a servant leader. True leadership comes from being a servant to our mission, as well as to those whom we work for and those whom we work with.

## The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ~ What it could mean for you

On December 20, 2017, Congress signed into law the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, creating sweeping changes which will lower the number of taxpayers who itemize starting in 2018.

The new law provides a modest decrease in individual tax rates, while also increasing the standard deduction for both individuals and joint filers. The standard deduction for individuals is now \$12,000 and for married couples is now \$24,000.

So, with the increase in the standard deductions, the result will be that more tax filers will not qualify as itemizers and no longer will deduct their charitable giving.



### Good news for Seniors:

For Seniors, age 70 ½ or older, there is a way to control your tax rate and limit your income without itemizing deductions and still take advantage of the increased standard deduction. This is the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), a provision that became permanent in 2016.

By donating from your IRA minimum distribution directly to the Homes of Charity, you in essence never received the income, therefore your tax rate is unaffected. This option doesn't provide a tax deduction, but simply avoids raising your annual income and potentially your tax rate after taking your standard deduction.

Remember, before making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution or any other planned gifts to the Homes of Charity, please consult with your accountant and/or financial planner.

To learn more about charitable giving to OLV Homes of Charity or to receive a copy of our Gift Planning Guide, please contact a member of our development staff at (716) 828-9610 or email us at [plannedgiving@homesofcharity.org](mailto:plannedgiving@homesofcharity.org).

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**BAKER  
VICTORY  
NITE**

You are invited to attend Baker Victory Nite 2018

Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Michael's Catering & Banquet Facility

*Benefitting Baker Victory Services, OLV Homes of Charity  
and OLV National Shrine and Basilica*

For tickets, sponsorship information, or to donate a gift, please call (716) 828-9289 or go to [www.bakervictorynite.org](http://www.bakervictorynite.org)