

Good morning and thank you for joining us at Morning Prayer in the Chapel.

“Things I Hope For”

I have been praying and hoping all last year in 2020 for a Covid-19 vaccine to be invented and I thank God our scientist's and medical engineers have accomplished this for the world. Vaccines are now being given to front line workers and the elderly, our time is soon. My husband Art and I and our children got Covid this past November. We believe we may have picked it up at a local restaurant we went to have dinner to celebrate our Wedding Anniversary since that was the only public place we attended where our masks were taken off to eat our meal. Now we order take out and eat at home if I do not cook. I hoped and prayed that God would allow us to get through that rough patch of being ill and we did get through it, and it was manageable at home.

As a parent we hope and pray that we can raise and see our children until they become adults on their own, I am there so far, 1 of 3 of our children are on their own. Our oldest daughter Gabriela moved out last October to accept a new job in Lafayette, IN. When I was in my early twenties I remember praying and hoping to one day marry Art Flores and have 3 kids.....pay attention to what you pray for...God is listening. It wasn't until many years later, about 19 after meeting Art that we did get married.

My parents Miguel and Maria Olguin were, and my dad still is, the best parents anyone could have hoped for and they taught me a lot about hope. My mom went to Heaven in 2012 and she was 84 years old. My mother was very happy with her life and often said “When God takes me, I am ready to go” and because she said that often, I was not devastated when she passed, sad of course, but at peace because my mother's faith was so full of love for God. Her faith and family were equally important to her. She made sure we learned our faith by taking us to church regularly and made sure we all received our sacraments when we were growing up. She even paid for private Catholic grade school and high school for my 3 older sisters and I. Mom was so supportive of higher education since she did not have that opportunity, she made sure my sisters and I graduated from college without debt. I appreciate her sacrifice and know what it is like since our oldest daughter was enrolled in private, Catholic grade school and high school also. My parents have been generous to their local community church and relatives who might have been in need for one reason or another. Even a small community of senior citizens in my dad's hometown in Mexico were the victims of my parent's generosity where my parents help pay for a new floor installed for the building that had a dirt floor originally where these senior people lived. My dad was hopeful and made a deal with the local grocery store owner to help feed this senior group of people to match what my dad purchased for them the store owner

would also buy the same amount to help supply their staples of rice and beans for their pantry. Doing things like this has taught my sisters and I to spread hope to other people in whatever ways we can to help others.

As a business undergrad major one of my favorite persons to read about or watch on TV was Suzy Orman, she is an American financial advisor and said "True generosity is an offering; given freely and out of pure love. No strings attached. No expectations." That is exactly what my parents have done and continue to do for my sisters and I. They both worked 30 & 36 years at the northwest Indiana steel mills and were generous parents to their children, God Children and relatives who may have needed a little help. I hope to be a similar parent to my children as my parents were and continue to be with me and my sisters. I continue to hope and ask God for the strength to be an awesome parent... for that is my discernment. I read a quote somewhere...."For our children are only ever lent to us. We never know just how long we will be able to keep them for. So kiss them, cuddle them, praise them and hold them tightly. But most of all, tell them you love them every day." And students, please remember to thank the person or persons, whether it is your parents, relatives, or someone special in your life that helped you get to college or motivated you to begin your next journey here at Valparaiso University. They are hoping and praying for your success.

There are many verses in the Bible that guide and teach us about life. I have several that I love but do not always remember their exact location by heart until I read it again or hear it at church. I share this one since I am a parent hoping to do God's will.

From Psalm 139: Verses 13-14

¹³ For it was you who formed my inmost being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I thank you who wonderfully made me; how wonderful are your
works, which my soul knows well!

Doreen Olguin-Flores

February 8, 2021

*Our children are only
ever lent to us.*

We never know just how long we
will be able to

keep them for.

*So kiss them, **cuddle them,**
praise them & hold them
tightly.*

But most of all...

*tell them you **LOVE** them
EVERYDAY.*



- Carly Marie