

Breath of the Spirit

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Newsletter

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Signs Of A Stewardship Parish

By Mitzi Benhart

Community...Participation...Generosity...
Welcoming...Joyous...At Home...

No matter what words you think of when you hear Stewardship Parish, the last two – At Home – are probably the most important because they are where every other one leads us. You can tell a stewardship parish because you can see that the parishioners are At Home:

At Home with their faith,
At Home with their God,
At Home with their Church,
At Home with their community.

When we are at home we feel comfortable and safe and we work hard to keep it that way. The parish is our Spiritual Home and as we all grow in our faith journey, so will the Holy Spirit community. So much of that spiritual growth has become visible over the years here at Holy Spirit. As you walk into the church on the weekend you can hear the sounds of the rosary, the choirs practicing, or parishioners greeting each other as they are setting up, preparing, welcoming – taking care of their home. You can hear it in their voices, the singing, the smiles, the acknowledgement of our gifts during the celebration of the Mass. We are all together in our faith. We are at home.

Take a walk through the atrium, library or classroom areas some evening and see our ministries at work through parishioners cleaning, answering phones, teaching, sharing, helping and showing the strength of their faith through their works. They are taking care of their fellow Christians, their family. They are at home.

And if you stop just long enough and really listen you can hear something else – the prayers of the faithful parishioners offering up the only thing they are able to offer – a prayer. You don't always see them but you know they are there through the comfort of their prayers. That is the true family that brings comfort to our hearts and homes.

A stewardship parish is constantly growing and changing and supporting the needs of the parish, the parishioners and the community. It brings people home. Although they may start by



Mitzi Benhart

thinking that stewardship is all about the money, the parishioners of a stewardship parish ultimately recognize that it involves a change of heart – a conversion – a need to give back. This is a need from within that manifests itself through outward actions: actions that not only spread the Good News of the Gospel but sow their seeds of faith through action. Actions that strengthen their home...

Do you think Holy Spirit is a stewardship parish? Are you at home at Holy Spirit?✠

Mitzi is a member of the Stewardship Committee.

FAITH & WORK: Christianity Shows In Teaching

By Fran Smolen

“A lot of prayer went into my decision,” said Leannah Mayo as she recalled the choice she made to go back to college after years of being a stay-at-home wife and mother. Her husband, Chuck, had retired from the Air Force and Leannah had a Liberal Arts degree. They were thinking of leaving Bowling Green when Leannah found out that the city of Bowling Green would pay her tuition as a full-time student at Western Kentucky University, to become a certified teacher.

“It was definitely divine intervention. Due to the Balkan War and the fact that there is a refugee center here in Bowling Green, I could be certified to teach ESL (English As A Second Language). With Chuck’s encouragement and support, I decided to do it.”

Their children Catherine and Charles Jr., had both been educated in Germany and Spain and Leannah wrote several papers on multi-cultural education.

“The ESL class opening was also divine intervention,” said Leannah. I had gotten my Master’s degree and was working as an administrative aid for Mr. Castro at Bowling Green High School. Soon after, he retired, and I got his class.”

Leannah has been teaching ESL, U.S. History and American History at



Leannah Mayo

Bowling Green High School for nine years.

“I always go to school early so I can walk with another teacher. We are not the same religion, but both of us are faith-filled and mentor each other. It really helps to start my day that way. It is prayerful and therapeutic at the same time.

I try to keep ‘What would Jesus do?’ in mind, especially with the diversity in the school. I try to model my faith. I can’t teach it, but I can show it. Even some of the American kids don’t understand their faith. I try to put forth some of the character building and values of every

faith into my teaching. I once saw a bumper sticker that said ‘As long as there’s a test, there’s going to be prayer in school.’ In dealing with everyday problems I’m prayerful. I have to make it a point to thank God for listening to me because I call on Him all day long.

I do a lot of mentoring for Western students who are going into education. They come and observe my classes and I encourage them to interact with the students. With so much diversity, every day is a challenge. I have to use prayer to work with and motivate them. I see it working! I’ve had quite a few ESL kids drop out because they couldn’t read and write. Even if they haven’t done well, they always keep in touch with us. They invite us to things; some even go on and graduate from college.

I always pray for my students. One student even asked for a prayer book in English. I guess my Christianity showed through. Rosa Stiles (a Holy Spirit parishioner) from Bowling Green Junior High was my mentor when I first started. As far as being a teacher, Rosa showed so much compassion for her students.”

Faith is important to me to be who I am. When I started teaching ESL and realized how religion is the student’s diet, their daily routine, I realized that’s how I want to be and want others to see when they see me.” †

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Theresa L. Baalke • Len Golembiewski • Robyn Minor
Donna Moore • Fran Smolen • Anita Willoughby

If you wish to contribute your time and talent to the newsletter, please contact Len at 782-5670.
We are especially in need of a digital photographer!

St. Vincent de Paul Conference

By Donna Moore

The following is based on a conversation that I had with Fran Smolen, who is an officer of the Conference.

What is the St. Vincent de Paul Conference? It's God's work. The Conference is a part of the Society that helps people with utility bills, food, clothing, prescriptions and sometimes lodging. We are a separate entity from the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. However, we receive proceeds from the sale of donated items as well as donations from Share Sunday.

How is the money divided between Holy Spirit and St. Joseph conferences?

The money is allocated on an as-needed basis. No person who needs food has ever been turned away from either location. Everyone who needs help, gets it. They do not have to be Catholic in order to receive help.

Where are the Conferences' offices located? The Holy Spirit Conference office is located inside the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in the Eastgate Shopping Center on Russellville Road. St. Joseph's Conference works out of St. Joseph's Church.

What should our community know about the conference? To be aware of all the good that we do, the help that we give and the needs people have. Right now it is especially difficult for people to meet high heating costs. Individuals and families on fixed incomes or those who depend on the



Jim and Helen Bailey, volunteers, St. Vincent Conference.

government for their income are having a hard time making ends meet.

When are people able to receive help?

Food is distributed Wednesday through Saturday. Some of the food is provided from the Second Harvest program and some is donated by groups of individuals. We also distribute sweet bread and pastries at the warehouse on Church Street on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Volunteers go daily to the three Kroger stores to pick up the food.

Why is assistance only available on those days?

Because in a perfect world there would be two volunteers each day. One would pack the food and the other would enter the information on the computer. The computer program keeps records of who was helped and how and when they were helped. But we only have enough volunteers to be open from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. on those four

days. There is a need for volunteers at the conference office, for the bread route and for the bread distribution. If there were more volunteers, food and financial aid could be distributed daily. That would be wonderful. People can volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis.

Who are the current dedicated people?

The volunteers who donate their time are: Helen and Jim Bailey, Lorraine and Ken Baushke, Leah Eckley, Gladys Faller, John Goessling, Tanya Gries, Dick Owen, Barbara Parker, Melissa Roy, Fran and Tom Smolen, Judy and Al Tourville and Mary Beth Wood.

What skills are needed to be a volunteer?

The ability to:

1. Treat the poor with dignity
2. Respect confidences
3. Be a patient listener
4. Be non-judgmental
5. Use the computer (minimal)

Prospective volunteers can come and observe to see what work they would be comfortable doing.

Now that we've convinced you to become a volunteer, please get in touch with Lorraine Baushke at 842-2231, Fran Smolen at 783-9417 or Judy Tourville at 745-9983, to arrange a visit.

Here is a portion of a prayer by St. Teresa to keep in mind....

**God has no hands but yours
God has no feet but yours. †**



Child inquirers signed with the cross at Rite of Acceptance.



Inquirers Melissa Roy, Jonathan Kemp, Judy Bates, Brenda Miciotto, listen to Sherry Vincent, catechist.



Kani, Jacob, Rick and Ryan Osborne carry Christmas banner.



Shannon Hickey, Ginny French, Jack French, Steve Vincent, Natalie Allen, Martin Hickey, and Erin Smith at Epiphany Catechist Dinner.



Ann Maresca, Mary Prante, Barbara Harkey, and Carolyn Baseheart.



Dick and Shirley Jakel, chairpersons, Over 50 Lunches.



Tanner, Regina, Landon, Timothy, and Gabriel South at Welcome Dinner.



Faith Mvunga and her daughter Hope Mvunga-Marfo at Welcome Dinner.



The Mendoza family at Welcome Dinner.



Elaine and Virgil Albaugh at Welcome Dinner.



Tanya and Paul Ackerman at Welcome Dinner.



Georgia Zoellner, Barbara Harkey, Sara Pudlo, Gladys Faller, and Kate McGlothlin at Legion of Mary meeting.

My Favorite Books

By Donna Moore

There are two series of books which are inspirational in very different ways. The first, written by Jan Karon, is about a rector who lives and works in the fictional town of Mitford. Father Tim Kavanaugh has many adventures with the quirky characters that make up his congregation and town. The stories include people of all ages and professions. The heart of each story is Father Tim and the challenges he faces on a daily basis. These challenges and how he deals with them, his human struggle with knotty issues of faith, and his deep commitment to being the best possible person make these novels interesting reading.

The second series is by C.S. Lewis and is for people of all ages. There are four brothers and sisters who discover a magical land called Narnia. The Chronicles of Narnia series has received a lot of publicity because of the recently released movie, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Adults and children will be enthralled by the struggle between good and evil as it is woven throughout the stories. Aslan, the noble lion who created Narnia, is a wonderful leader. His self-sacrifice reminds us of the sacrifices which Jesus made for us.

Another perceptive, and thoroughly different author is Anne Lamott. She has written two non-fiction books, Traveling Mercies, Some Thoughts on Faith, and Plan B, Further Thoughts of Faith. Her frankness as she describes her life and her faith journey is amazing. She is funny and wise, sharing openly about herself, her family, and her friends. When describing the struggles she has had in her life she tells of her mistakes and how she is trying to overcome them. Her descriptions of the ordinary are extraordinary.



Donna Moore reading in her study.

For a shorter read there is the book, Attitudes of Gratitude, by M.J. Ryan. This book is small in size but large in thoughtfulness. It reminds us that there is joy in each day which we need to recognize and not take for granted.

If you haven't got all the things you want. Be grateful for the things you don't have. That you don't want.
Anonymous

Another small book to enjoy is God Thinks You're Wonderful! by Max Lucado. It doesn't take long to read and you can easily reread it because the messages, though short, are so truthful and wonderful.

*So promise me you'll never forget...
That you aren't an accident
or an incident...
You are a gift to the world,
a divine work of art,
Signed by God.*

Sometimes it is good to have a short, daily reading to begin or end the day. For these occasions, the Daily Guideposts is excellent. Various writers contribute to the book which is filled with spirit-lifting thoughts. Men and women write about events in their lives which have given them insight into their faith. Each reading begins with a verse of scripture and ends with a brief prayer.

When traveling, Grace for the Moment by Max Lucado is a small, handy book with inspirational thoughts for each day. It also begins with a Bible verse followed by a short meditation.

Here is a quotation from Albert Einstein to ponder:

"There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." ✠

Meet Ivana Walker

By Robyn L. Minor

Ivana Walker started working at Holy Spirit last summer as a way to become integrated into the community. She and her husband, Brian, and sons, Andrew (14) and David (11), moved here the previous year from Canada. Brian Walker is an employee of Magna and he's helping with the production startup of Bowling Green Metalforming. Ivana's post as Assistant to the Parish Administrator was a part-time job, allowing her to spend time with her family and volunteer at David's school, St. Joseph Catholic School. Andrew is a student at Greenwood High School.

Walker is now a little sad that she has to step back from the volunteer work to take on the full time job of Parish Administrator – a job which she started on February 1. "I was ready, in a way, for it to become full time," Walker said. "When I initially decided to work, I wanted to do it part time, just to be part of community. But the more I got into the position, I really enjoyed being here. It is going to be a good change for me and I have the support of my family to work full time, which is great."

Ivana said she has noticed some differences between the Catholic



Ivana Walker, Parish Administrator.

community here and in Canada. Probably the biggest difference is the number of Catholics. In London, Ontario, a city about the size of Bowling Green, there were seven Catholic churches, all about the size of Holy Spirit. But here the number of church ministries and outreach programs greatly outnumber those in Canada. "I think it's a wonderful thing," she said.

The opportunity for social interaction among Catholics here also is greater, she said. Ivana said her kids love living in Bowling Green. "My parents immigrated to Canada (from Italy), so I'm a first-generation Canadian and then to come here is a great opportunity for us," she said.

As an administrator, encouraging more interaction and matching people with ministries to give or receive help will be a big part of the job. Ivana already was doing some as an assistant, but that job was a big change from her work in Canada where she was a jewelry designer. Part of her job also will be to work closely with Father Jerry Riney and the rest of the Holy Spirit team to make sure the church's work is done. One of Ivana's goals is to enlist more people to volunteer in the office that is open weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Ivana said volunteers have an integral part in making sure the office runs smoothly. "Now we are a little low on our office volunteers," she said. "So if people want to contact me that would be great."

To volunteer in the parish office, call Ivana Walker at 842-7777. †



Lent is Pruning Time

attitudes, our desires, our wants, our speech, our conversation, our ability to build up rather than tear down. Lent is the perfect time to take stock of our lives and to be courageous enough to allow God's grace to prune that which needs trimming and growth—that which makes us spiritually sluggish and holds us back from becoming who we can be rooted in Jesus Christ.

There is a cemetery in the US, famous for its impressive monuments. Probably

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the most imposing among them, is one for a deceased military hero—a general. It lists all the battles he fought and his lifetime accomplishments. Right next to it is a small tombstone erected for his beloved young wife. Unlike the general's epitaph, only one line was engraved in her remembrance: *Everywhere she went, she brought flowers.* The ultimate benefit of pruning is the blossoming that takes place when it is done properly. When we do this inner pruning, we

are more likely to be aware of the flowers we bring to those we encounter along the way.

Pruning with the ultimate goal in mind helps us step back and re-assess when we feel overwhelmed by sin or unproductive behavior or unrealistic expectations. We must be clear about what we really want out of life. Lent, which in the old English means "springtime", is the ideal season for pruning. †

Lent is Pruning Time

By Fr. Jerry Riney

Recently, I read an article by Robert J. Wicks, who has been helping people to take measure of their lives for years. Having written many books on spirituality and personal growth, Dr. Wicks contends that difficult times can offer graced moments in more striking ways than the good times can. The article was about PRUNING. I would like to summarize that article, which holds deep hope as we enter the season of Lent.

“Pruning” not only speaks of cutting back, but also of the ultimate blossoming that takes place when it is done properly. It is rewarding to prune our inner lives of the causes and tendencies that block discernment of what burdens we should and should not carry



If we are not centered it is almost impossible to be a good priest, parent, student, teacher, or friend. In order to be centered on what is important—that we might sense the inner peace for which we long—pruning

is often necessary to cut back. This “cutting back” is not out of selfishness, but out of a need to serve better.

Before Christmas several families told me they had decided to *simplify*, to cut back on the materialism and commercialism of the Christmas season. This decision was made to appreciate better what was truly important about the central mystery of Christmas. In order to be better at what we do, it is often necessary to prune away unrealistic expectations, so that the gifts we truly have can be realized and utilized more effectively. Though most of us do not consider ourselves BIG sinners, we ARE called to prune our lives of anything that is not of God. It is a great time to examine our

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