

CATHOLIC HERALD



▲ Pope Francis greets Rabbi Abraham Skorka at St. Joseph's University in November 2015. See story on Page 4. (Photo courtesy of Jon Sweeney)

Herald of Hope

Archbishop ListECKI discusses the state of the battle for the sanctity of unborn life.

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Back in Time

St. Mary Visitation students host museum featuring Milwaukee people, buildings and institutions.

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Catholic Stewardship Appeal has Something for Everyone

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

If you've ever enjoyed a beer while listening to a formational talk at Theology on Tap, you've been affected by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

If you've ever received the Eucharist or been to the confessional of a priest who was educated at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, you've been affected by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

If you've ever listened to the "Two Guys and a Gospel" podcast or browsed the pages of a Milwaukee Catholic Herald, you've been affected by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

The breadth of the ministries whose missions are sustained by the archdiocese's annual fundraiser is more far-reaching than most people realize, said Rob Bohlmann, director of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.






"The appeal really has something for everyone," he said.

The CSA raises millions of dollars each year to support ministry in four main areas — families, parishes, schools

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March 8 – 10, 2019

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Mission to a Wounded World"

Presenters: The Retreat Team

Silent Preached Retreat for Women

March 15 – 17, 2019

March 22 – 24, 2019

Theme: "Witnesses of the Redeemer:
Mission to a Wounded World"

Presenters: The Retreat Team

**March 6, 2019 - Ash Wednesday Day
of Prayer**

As we begin Lent, we prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting, and charitable works for the great celebration of God's loving rule over evil; Easter. This day of prayer is not a silent retreat.

All are welcome.

Presenter: The Retreat Team

**April 15 – 20, 2019 – Holy Week Silent
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There is a Right Answer in Abortion Debate

When missionaries reached the shores of newly discovered lands, they were confronted with the culture of people who had no relationship to Christianity. In fact, some still practiced the brutal custom of human sacrifice to the gods they worshipped. Of course, this appalled the missionaries and adventurers who considered themselves both “enlightened and progressive.” However, in their zeal for the conversion of the native people, they used the message of Christianity to expunge this barbaric practice. It seemed simple on its face that human life demanded respect and this pagan practice did little to support the “imago dei,” the teaching that every life has the imprint of God on their being.

A couple of weeks ago, the state of New York passed legislation that allowed the extinction of a human life up until the moment of birth. Some have proposed further than even if the attempted abortion is botched and the baby is born alive, there would be a right under the law to “euthanize” the baby. Is this the witness to Christianity and its teaching that our forefathers envisioned for our nation?

I have been part of the pro-life debate since my college and law school days, respectfully listening to those that defended the killing of the unborn. They put forth various arguments such as the right of a woman over her own body, the freedom to choose, the child is unwanted and becomes a burden on the society, the avoidance of back-alley abortions making it safe for a woman to terminate pregnancies, the necessity for a doctor and the patient to achieve privacy and, of course, this is not really a person but the collection of tissue.

The so-called Roe v. Wade decision



HERALD of HOPE

ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI

issued by the Supreme Court (1973) was intended to settle the issue. Usually, most Supreme Court decisions bring a settlement to arguments in about a decade. Unfortunately, in the case of legalized abortion, the issue has only grown more intense. One of the reasons was the failure to establish when human life begins. For those of our Catholic faith, the teaching is clear: it begins at the moment of conception. But, for those who depend upon science to answer the question of when human life begins it would surprise many to realize that today there is little argument to counter the fact that the child in the womb is anything but human life. Discoveries in DNA research, ultrasound technologies and advancements in neonatology have allowed us to view the unborn child's development and understand that all of us share in that human growth.

When Pope Benedict XVI was elected pope, one of the aspects that he warned society was the problem of “relativism.” There are no objective standards; moral absolutes do not exist. What is right is what people feel or think is right.

When I returned to teach moral theology at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, I knew

I faced individuals who had received their ethical and moral education from colleges and universities that treated moral questions as argumentative. Many of my students would enter a moral or ethical class being informed by their teacher or professor that there were no right or wrong answers, it's only your opinion that counts and no one can judge you as being right or wrong. It was a matter of persuasion. I knew I needed to impress upon the seminarians, our future priests, that there were certainly right or wrong answers. So I asked them is there any action that they could think of that could never be permitted or may never be justified. As they responded, it was evident that “the destruction of innocent life” found its place as an absolute. I informed them that they did not qualify as “relativist” but certainly had an absolute understanding, which acted as an objective standard apart from how I feel or what I think.

When Abraham Lincoln was asked about slavery, he stated if slavery is not wrong then nothing is wrong. It seems to me Lincoln had an objective standard that demanded everything else be measured by it.

We have been losing the battle on college and university campuses for decades. They often feed their students a steady diet of “moral relativism.” For many individuals, political correctness has become the new “pseudo righteousness.” In our speech, we are offended by non-inclusive language, historical figures are judged by 21st century standards and the improper use of plastics receives legal sanctions. We praise our indignation of these

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Pope Francis's Rabbi Coming to Milwaukee

JON M. SWEENEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

From the moment a conclave of cardinals elects a new pope in Vatican City, there are revelations. In March 2013, when Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio emerged as the new worldwide leader of the Roman Catholic Church, there were many stories about him: how he returned, post-conclave, to personally pay his hotel bill; how he liked to ride the subway in Buenos Aires where he was archbishop, hearing confessions on the train; and that one of his best friends from Argentina was a rabbi.

The world outside of Buenos Aires was also, then, introduced to Rabbi Abraham Skorka. In addition to being congregational rabbi in Buenos Aires, Skorka is a biophysicist, a seminary rector, and a professor of biblical and rabbinic literature. Rabbi Skorka and Cardinal Bergoglio wrote a book together in Spanish, published in Argentina in 2010. After the conclave, the book appeared in English: *On Heaven and Earth*.

Guided each by their religious convictions, Rabbi Skorka and Pope Francis have spent many years talking about their understandings of God, theological and religious differences, and what it means to live as people of faith and religious commitment in the modern world. In their book, they go into detail on subjects such as atheism, abortion, fundamentalism, guilt, prayer, homosexuality, euthanasia, divorce, conflict between Arabs and Israelis, same-sex marriage, globalization, and the future of interreligious dialogue.

Rabbi Skorka occasionally travels outside South America to lecture on the subject of "Faithful Friendship," interfaith dialogue, and what he has learned about Catholicism from the Pope.

He has recently said of his friendship with Pope Francis: "We have transformed our dialogue into a group conversation, exposing our souls. We accept all of the risks this implies, yet remain profoundly convinced that this is the only way for us to understand what it means to be a human being, moving ever closer to God."

The two men remain close. Their friendship is the topic of Rabbi Skorka's upcoming lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday,

March 31. Skorka's visit is sponsored by The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, in Franklin. He will be involved in a weekend of talks and activities. The public lecture, on March 31, will be held at Sacred Heart, 7335 S. Highway 100, Franklin, and is free and open to all. Boswell Book Company will also be there, and Rabbi Skorka will be available to sign copies of *On Heaven*

and *Earth*. Email or call the director of The Lux Center, Bonnie Shafrin, and tell her you plan to attend at 414-529-6966 or bshafrin@shsst.edu.

Jon M. Sweeney is a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Milwaukee, and the author of many books, including The Pope Who Quit, which was optioned by HBO, and The Pope's Cat series for children. He is also a board member of The Lux Center.

Breaking Ground



▲ Ascension Wisconsin leaders, physicians, associates and guests celebrated the groundbreaking for the Ascension Racine Medical Center on Friday, Feb. 8, at 10430 Washington Ave., Mt. Pleasant. The Mt. Pleasant Plan Commission approved plans for the \$42 million, two-story, 72,000-square-foot medical center in mid-December. Along with primary, specialty and urgent care, the new state-of-the-art center will offer on-site laboratory and imaging services, rehabilitation, occupational health and an outpatient surgery center. The Ascension Racine Medical Center is expected to open in early 2020. (Photo courtesy of Ascension Wisconsin)

Gesu Celebrates 125 Years of Faith

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee isn't the only one with a big anniversary to celebrate this year — 2019 also marks 125 years since the dedication of Gesu Church. A full calendar of events stretching into late fall will commemorate this important milestone for the landmark Jesuit parish on Wisconsin Avenue, which opened its doors in December 1894.

"It's really going to be a celebration of parish life and parish history," said Fr. Jim Flaherty, S.J.

The anniversary festivities aren't just an acknowledgment of the years that the splendid French Gothic building has graced the west side. Although events focusing on the physical beauty of Gesu's art and architecture are included on the year's agenda, the overarching theme of the celebrations is gratitude for the countless souls who have encountered the redemptive love of Christ within its walls.

"It's a little overwhelming to think about 125 years, when you start breaking down all the things you do in a parish," said John O'Brien, director of operations and administration at Gesu. "When you start doing the math, and you start thinking about the number of weddings and baptisms and funerals and confessions — it's really something to reflect on."

All living former pastors will be able to rejoin the community for Mass at various points throughout the year, leading up to a special conclusion Mass presided over by Archbishop Jerome Listekci on Nov. 3. A lecture and demonstration highlighting the church's 115-rank pipe organ is planned for Feb. 24, led by staff organist (and organist for the Milwaukee Brewers and Milwaukee Admirals) Dean Rosko. Several special tours led by O'Brien will also be held between Sunday Masses throughout the year.

All events were planned by an eight-member anniversary committee comprised of parishioners. For a complete listing of events, visit www.gesuparish.org/about-history-125anniversary.php.

"These milestones allow us to look back on our past and think of all the faithful who have come through the doors of Gesu over the years, supporting the parish in so many ways, and the priests and religious and also lay staff who have served the parish," said Fr. Flaherty,



▲ Gesu Parish has started celebrations of its 125th anniversary. The parish opened its doors on Wisconsin Avenue in December 1894. (Submitted photo)

who has been pastor at Gesu for four years. "It's also a way to look forward to the future, as we continue to serve the church here in Milwaukee and even beyond, proclaiming the Gospel."

The anniversary celebrations kicked off on Jan. 27, when the parish's usual 9 a.m. Mass included a visit from the Provincial Superior of the Midwest Jesuits, Fr. Brian G. Paulson, S.J. At the Mass, Fr. Flaherty said a special blessing over the church's recently refurbished stained glass windows.

The window renovation was a nine-year project led by O'Brien. "Every window was completely removed, disassembled, repaired, cleaned, when necessary replaced, reassembled and reinstalled," he said. "We're hoping it's a 100-plus-year fix. Some of those windows

were untouched since 1907 when they came in, and they were in desperate need of renovation." The windows, which depict scenes from both the Old and New Testament, were at one time the largest collection of "Munich-style" stained glass in the Americas.

Construction on the Gesu church building began in 1893, but its history stretches back even farther through its two parent parishes, St. Gall and Holy Name. St. Gall's was founded to serve Irish immigrants in 1849, and its congregation eventually became so large that Holy Name was established as a second Jesuit parish in 1875. Several years later, when land northwest of 12th and Wisconsin became available, plans were made to consolidate the parishes under one

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Workshop Explores What's Behind the Music of Faith

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Church hymns are more than just songs of praise, supplication or thanksgiving. They emerge from very specific spiritual sensibilities, social conditions and ethnicities that exist in a certain time or place. In a sense, they are primary sources from throughout the history of Christianity — snapshots of the faith at different periods of time.

A workshop hosted by the School Sisters of St. Francis on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 26, took a closer look at those snapshots through the scholarship of historian Juliet Hills and the musical talents of pianist Jack Forbes Wilson. Entitled “Songs of Our Faith: What’s Behind the Music?” the well-attended morning session at the St. Joseph Center on Layton Boulevard was a mixture of performance and presentation, of reflection and recital.

Hills is retired from the Milwaukee County Historical Society, and holds a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from Marquette University and an M.A. degree in pastoral studies from St. Francis Seminary. Wilson is a noted Milwaukee-area church musician, piano teacher and cabaret singer, pianist and actor. He has performed with the Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, Skylight Opera Theatre and Next Act Theatre.

During the workshop, Hills touched on both the technical and conceptual aspects of various well-known hymns, covering a songbook that included everything from Christmas carols to African-American spirituals and contemporary praise music.

“If we believe our country is protected by God, we will find national songs in our hymn books. If we believe hell is a real place, our hymns will pull us towards heaven,” said Hills. “If our



▲ Jack Forbes Wilson plays the piano while Juliet Hills looks on during a Jan. 26 workshop at the St. Joseph Center. (Submitted photo)

religion teaches that cleanliness is next to godliness, our hymns will be very different from our desperate cousins following the drinking gourd.”

Hills and Wilson took the audience through 33 separate hymns, delving into the personalities of the songwriters who produced them and, in some cases, the circumstances that inspired them. They also touched briefly on music theory, explaining that hymns written in the same meter can be sung to one another’s tune — a concept demonstrated (to the delight of the audience) by Forbes, who played “Amazing Grace” to the tune of another song written in its same meter:

the theme song of “Gilligan’s Island.”

Several of the songs that the duo explored included:

■ “All Creatures of Our God and King,” derived from the “Canticle of the Sun,” a poem by St. Francis of Assisi. Written in the 13th century, it was one of the first canticles written in the author’s own dialect.

■ “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” by Charles Wesley, a leader in the Methodist movement in the United Kingdom. Wesley was the writer of 6,500 hymns. This song is set to the tune “Easter Hymn” and was published in

1708. Wesley, an Oxford graduate, would later come to Savannah, Georgia, where he was appointed secretary of Indian Affairs in 1735.

■ “On Eagle’s Wings,” written by Fr. Michael Joncas, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Fr. Joncas wrote this song in the 1970s following the death of the father of a dear friend. The first time it was performed in public was at the friend’s father’s funeral, said Hills. Fr. Joncas was also a collaborator of Marty Haugen and David Haas.

■ “Morning Has Broken,” which is sung to the Gaelic tune of “Bunnessan” (so called after a village in Scotland). The words are by Eleanor Farjeon, a British poet who converted to Catholicism at the age of 70; Farjeon also wrote children’s books and plays. The song was made famous by Cat Stevens in 1971.

■ “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” explained Hills, is sung in every town, village and city in her native England every Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. to commemorate British citizens who have died in war. “In my village, we would start in the church, walk down half a block to the war memorial, where all the names were read of all the dead from both world wars,” she said. The words are by Isaac Watts, an English Congregational minister, and are based on Psalm 90. The tune, “St. Anne,” is by William Croft, and was later used by Handel.

■ “What Wondrous Love Is This” is sung to the tune “Southern Harmony,” published in 1835. Originally a Celtic sea shanty, “The Story of Captain Kidd,” published in 1701, the song tells the exploits of pirate William Kidd. The lyrics first appeared in an early 19th century Virginia hymnal, and the hymn today was harmonized by a Methodist professor of church music in the 1960s.

► **CSA, FROM PAGE 1**

and priests/lay leaders. Within those categories are initiatives that include religious formation for everyone, from priests, seminarians and permanent deacons, to RCIA candidates, catechists, adults, teens and children. That also encompasses the services of Catholic Charities, which impacts more than 40,000 people annually. It's funding for intercultural ministries and the promotion of the Catholic faith within minority communities. It's ministry to senior priests and support for couples living out the sacrament of marriage. It's guidance for parish councils and evangelization on the campuses of public universities like UW-Milwaukee.

That's a vast collection of ministries that, as Archbishop Jerome Listeck said in the 2019 CSA promotional video, "enhance, reshape and transform Catholic life in the 10 counties of southeastern Wisconsin."

The 2018 Catholic Stewardship Appeal raised just shy of \$8.2 million, exceeding its \$7.7 million goal. That was an all-time high, said Bohlmann, and the third consecutive year that the CSA crossed the \$8 million mark. The money was donated by roughly 30,000 households at various levels of giving.

And while it's certainly never easy to ask families to dig deep and give of themselves, financially or otherwise, in many ways the task was made more complicated with the scandals and media scrutiny that rocked the Catholic Church in 2018. Public

opinion notwithstanding, the scandals motivated some of the faithful to cease charitable giving to the Church in protest.

"I don't know if it's a concern, but it's something we keep in mind," said Bohlmann of the impact of the scandals. "We try to put the best case forward that we can — make people aware of what the appeal supports and make a sincere ask of them to support it, and leave them with the decision of whether to make a gift or not."

It's a fitting year, then, for the CSA's theme of "Amazing Grace." Grace, after all, pointed out Bohlmann, is not something that is earned or even deserved. It's bestowed freely upon us by God, out of his love and mercy.

"I think what's amazing about it is how it affects our lives, how it can change us and transform us," he said. "I think it serves to remind us to be thankful, to reflect upon what we have and the blessings we've received and how we must share them with our fellow brothers and sisters in faith."

"I think it also speaks to how grace can help us become a more loving, caring people. It deepens our faith and brings us closer to Christ. That's what we're trying to convey to people — to think about all of those things, and to look within themselves and think about how have I been blessed, what graces have I received in my life, and how can I return that through my gift to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal?"



10 minutes of conversational brainstorming on this Sunday's Gospel with Fr. Phillip Bogacki and Fr. Ricardo Martin.

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Holy Family Implements Amazing Parish Model

MERRIDITH FREDIANI
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Holy Family Catholic Community is an Amazing Parish. Eighteen years ago, the Fond du Lac area parishes merged, and six staffs, six pastoral councils, six finance councils and the ministries that comprise a parish had to figure out how to become one. With prayer, patience, understanding and hard work, they were successful.

Their organizational structure had to be overhauled, directors needed to be hired and a unified staff developed. Now, collaboration and collegiality are emphasized, and no one works in a silo. As the community has grown, different roles have developed. When the need for a funeral planner was identified, one was hired. Same for a wedding coordinator.

The staff works closely together and enjoys good communication. Everyone wants what is best for the parish and will work together to that end. People hold themselves accountable. Weekly meetings are prioritized, agendas are followed, and people are willing to help and be helped.

“Meetings are sacred times,” said Gail Kraig, director of parish operations.

Staff members are encouraged to speak up and are given tacit permission to respectfully disagree. Everyone is committed to what is best for the parish overall, and being able to be honest helps build a strong community. A parish-wide strategic plan is formulated by the departments and councils yearly, and three to five overarching goals are identified. These goals then form the departmental goals.

Staff is also encouraged to be creative in their problem solving. With four sites, it is important to be thoughtful about making sure information relevant to the entire community is communicated consistently and accurately. Instead of relying on just a bulletin, the staff creates video messages that can be shown at all four sites. They also work to stay relevant in messaging by recognizing that people gather information from a variety of sources. They figure out where people are receiving information and send it there. They have a Facebook presence, a parish app and are careful to keep databases updated. They strive for good communication with parishioners, and a high level of transparency, especially with finances, parish council, finance council and ministry areas.



▲ Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac is the largest in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. (Photo courtesy of Holy Family Parish)

This high level of communication extends to the staff as well. They work to keep people informed and moving in the same direction. People like to feel “in the know,” said Kraig. They value knowing where things are going well and where improvements can happen. She sees it as a positive thing.

The Amazing Parish conference reinforced, and helped formalize, many things the staff was doing. They were already far along in the process because they had a solid organizational chart and the directors were meeting weekly. Now, Fr. Ryan Pruess is brought into the meetings and they are adapting to the Amazing Parish model in order to free up the priests to do pastoral work. “Priests are a very important part of atmosphere,” she said.

“The Amazing Parish conference was an outstanding opportunity,” said Kraig. There is openness for lay ministers to express opinions and be heard. People are respected for their experience and expertise. The conference helped them formalize their structure.

Kraig has good advice for parishes working to implement the Amazing Parish model. “Build a culture of collaboration to get out of the silo mentality. Build trust in each other and God. Then staff can have hard conversations if necessary. Everyone gets input but

also accepts decisions. Ask how each ministry can work for the best of the parish. Strive for commitment in the collaborative culture.”

One important thing the team learned from Amazing Parish, and implemented right away, was praying together as a staff. At 11:30 a.m. every Monday through Thursday, an announcement is made reminding everyone of shared prayer time. The directors take turns leading a short prayer service. There is a high level of staff participation, and any parishioners who happen to be in the building are invited. “Ninety-nine percent of the time, people stop working and join the group in prayer,” said Kraig.

Personal prayer intentions are shared, and knowing what is on the hearts of their co-workers has brought the group together in a special way, building trust and deeper personal relationships. Praying together helps everyone know they are sincerely cared about.

“Holy Family has an absolutely outstanding culture among the staff,” said Kraig. This is her fifth year and she is proud of the healthy, collaborative culture that has developed. The directors and staff of various ministries work together creating a “great work ethic and collegial environment.”

CALLIE GAY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Can you tell me a little about your call to ministry?

I had a really good high school parish ministry experience. There were so many adults who cared for me who had no obligation to. Our parish youth minister suggested I get involved in various ministries and leadership opportunities, and I think it all goes back to that. I did my undergrad in social work and all through that time, there was a pull in the back of my mind that the ministry work I was doing could be my job.

When did you decide to make that switch?

When I was finishing my social work degree, I had a chance to work at an adolescent treatment center for girls and it exposed me to an all-girls culture that I loved, and that's when I knew I wanted that in a faith-filled environment.

What do you love about teaching juniors and seniors?

I love in particular that the senior courses we have allow us to get into a more philosophical approach than the girls have been able to pursue in other classes. First semester, I teach a class called Vocations. It's a lot of figuring out what their individual gifts and charisms are, and asking what is God calling them to be. I think those are really profound questions for our girls, and they're really ready to embrace those big questions by their senior year.

You also teach a course on social justice; why do you think that is an important topic to focus on?

The girls are drawn to service and justice and trying to answer some of those big questions about what they're seeing in the world. We talk about the themes of Catholic social teachings and about what's happening in the news. I try to figure out what's causing them stress and concern and address it. I see it as such a privilege to be able to talk to them about it and show them things

MY FAITH MINI-PROFILE

Lisa Metz St. Sebastian Parish, Milwaukee

Lisa Metz has taught at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School for 19 years. After being hired to work in the campus ministry department she began teaching theology, and the past few years has coordinated adult faith formation opportunities for faculty and staff.

- Metz grew up attending Mother of Good Counsel Parish.
- Her husband, Jon, is the director of Christian Formation at Lumen Christi.
- She received her undergrad in social



work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and her master's degree at Cardinal Stritch University.

- Metz now attends St. Sebastian with her husband, her 10-year-old daughter, Maria, and her 8-year-old son, Nate.



▲ Lisa Metz (far right) has taught at DSHA for 19 years. (Submitted photo)

like how the Church is holding up the concept of human dignity. When they really understand it, and understand what we're called to be, they're drawn to the truth of the Church even though it's sometimes countercultural. It's my favorite thing to teach.

What do you think is the most important thing we can do to keep young people in the Church?

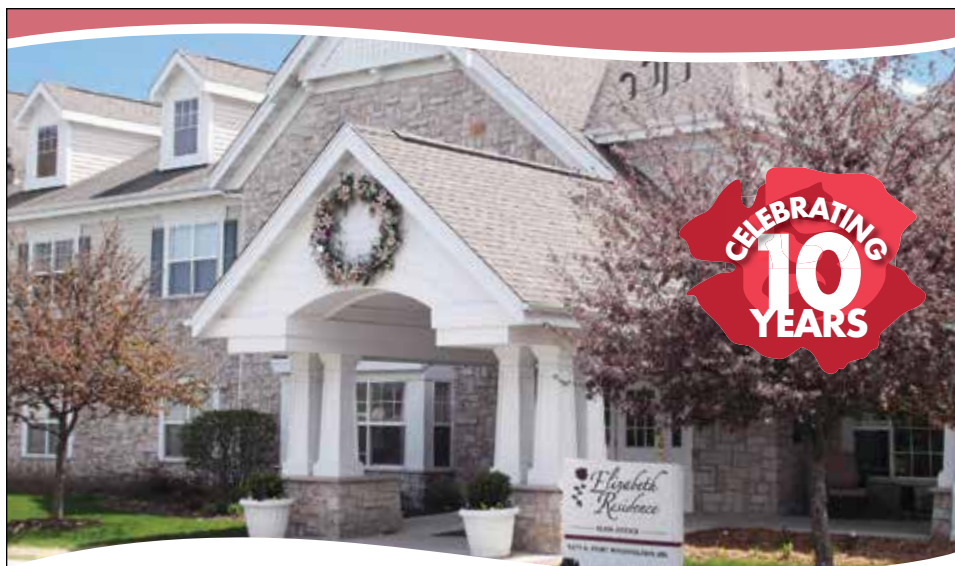
I think we have to realize that adolescence is a totally normal time for them to question their faith. I have so much hope in the future of the Church that I don't worry when I see students in the classroom question and doubt and struggle. I actually think it's proving that they're thinking. If we never struggle and wrestle and ask some of those big questions, we're not making the faith personal. I appreciate the kid that pushes back and asks a lot of questions. We have to allow them to talk and we have to listen and keep connecting.

What practical advice do you find yourself giving to students most often?

To go into as little debt in your undergrad as you possibly can. Many of our students go on to grad school, so I remind them that it's possibly just part of their continuing education and the costs will keep coming.

Your family is very ministry focused, how are you working to pass the importance of service on to your children?

By bringing them with us. They're both at our jobs a lot. My husband and I help prepare parents that are having their children baptized at our parish, and our kids are around for a lot of that. When we took it on we said that we wanted to involve the whole family. I want to give them the community my parents gave me. I want to give them something to hang on to when life gets rough, because when you have this community you have hope and support.



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St. Mary Visitation Takes Step Back in Time

LARRY HANSON
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Archbishop Jerome Listecki, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Fr. James Groppi and Archbishop John Henni made appearances on Thursday, Feb. 7, in the senior center underneath St. Mary Visitation Parish School.

Or to be more accurate, reasonable facsimiles of those guests of honor were on hand for the school's historical figures museum, a full room displaying notable individuals, organizations, schools and institutions from the 175-year history of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

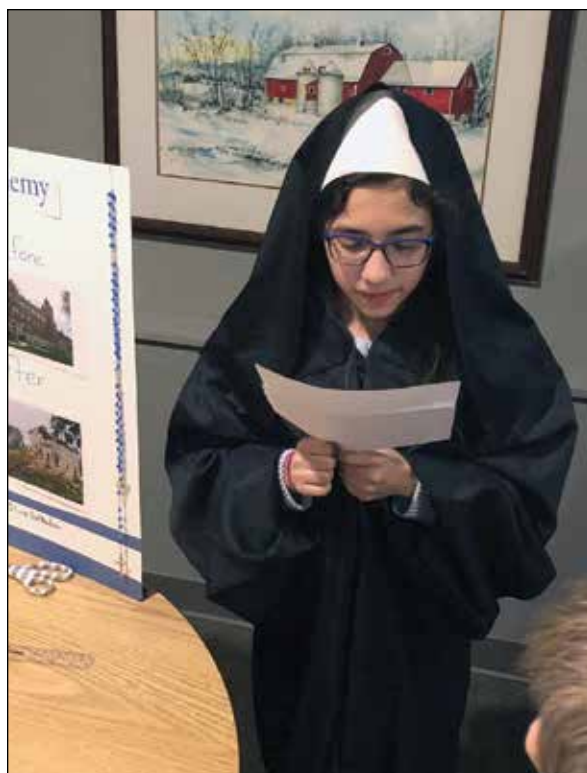
Fifth- and sixth-grade students at the school dressed in costume to represent the historical figure they had been assigned after seventh- and eighth-graders at the school did the research, much of it done using Fr. Steven Avella's comprehensive history of the archdiocese, "In the Richness of the Earth."

"This is a great way for them to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the archdiocese," said St. Mary Visitation Principal Mary Tretow. "It gives them an idea of the impact of the people who were there. They got to pick what they did."

Gary Newman, the school's junior high theology and Catholic moral life teacher, directed the older students in their research.

"Once I realized there were so many important figures in the archdiocese for the kids to know and for all of us to recognize, I looked through the book by Fr. Avella and that kind of gave me a skeletal outline of the more prominent figures from the last 175 years," said Newman.

The event is similar to the school's annual All Saints Day presentation



where students dress as a favorite saint. The twist was they were dressing up as people with ties to the 10-county Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

In the fall, when the students did research on their saints at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, they had to research a saint that had an archdiocesan parish named after him or her, as opposed to just picking any saint, as in previous years. As part of the curriculum coinciding with the archdiocese's year-long anniversary, students researched the founding and growth of the parishes in addition to learning about the saints.

"I think the students were surprised to find out how diverse all the organizations and people have been over the last 175 years, to kind of get us to this place in our faith journey," Newman said. "Things didn't happen by happenstance but there were people working along the way and organizations working along the way



▲ St. Mary Visitation students portrayed former Milwaukee Archbishops (from left) Sebastian Messmer, Samuel Stritch and William Cousins.

◀ St. Mary Visitation students did research on Catholic institutions, places, people and schools, including St. Mary's Academy.

to kind of get us where we're at. That was the great thing about having them research and look up who makes up our archdiocese."

During the hour and a half event, older students in the school were paired up with their little buddies and they heard presentations from the fifth-graders about each of the historic figures and institutions.

Beth Scherr is the fifth-grade teacher at the Elm Grove school. She noted the whole process, from research to creating costumes, props and displays, was very informative for her students.

"They didn't realize who were the most important figures until now," Scherr said. "Some of their names appear on more than one project. The research was great. They got to figure out what was the most important thing they wanted to talk about, and ways to talk to their guests, presenting their material in ways they haven't before."

In addition to just learning about the person or place they did their project on, they were able to get some context for what was going on in the greater culture when these important Catholic figures were making their impact.

For instance, at the entrance to the museum, a student had done his project on Fr. Groppi and was able to learn about the Civil Rights movement that spurred him to action and thrust Fr. Groppi into prominence.

Scherr shared that the School Sisters of Notre Dame wanted to set up in Watertown, but they couldn't make it because of difficulties with travel, so they settled in Elm Grove, just a couple of blocks away from the school.

"They learned more about the social aspects going on in society," Scherr said. "They really did a good job."

In all, there were 40 displays in the museum.

The history of the Church is the history of our parishes

St. Monica Thrives in Whitefish Bay

LARRY HANSON
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Fr. Paul Hartmann is known by many people for the nine years he spent as president at Catholic Memorial High School.

However, since June 2017 he has been the pastor at St. Monica in Whitefish Bay (and also St. Eugene in Fox Point).

He said it has been a blessing to have landed in a parish with so many advantages, including architecturally, demographically and the strength of the parish.

"I think the image is old-line, old-money, big Catholic church on a main street," Hartmann said. "Physically, this church is an edifice in the community. It's an old-line, very successful Catholic parish with demographics that are, generally speaking, well-off. That tends to hide (that) for every person who lives on Lake Drive, I've got a dozen, two dozen who live on the other side of (Interstate) 43 who are living in a (small home). The generosity of people is wonderful. It's more economically diverse than people think. I'm not dealing with poverty; I will admit that. I know my brother priests at other parishes have far greater challenges with poverty and drugs."

The parish, founded in 1923, now celebrates Mass in a building that was once the biggest in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, seating 1,200 people. Holy Family in Fond du Lac now seats more. The large facility for St. Monica, nestled at the corner of Silver Spring Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard, serves 1,250 families and almost 6,000 parishioners.

The architect was parishioner William Sherer, a parishioner who designed it in the Southern Italian Romanesque

style. The windows have rounded arches, designed by Herb Hirschboeck, a parishioner and an attorney.

Over the 90-plus years the parish has been in existence, the ties to the community have only strengthened.

"I've got kids in the grade school who are the great-grandchildren of people who attended," Fr. Hartmann said.

The first Mass at the parish was celebrated Dec. 25, 1923 at Whitefish Bay Village Hall. On May 4, 1924, the parish's first Mass was celebrated in the "Little Chapel," a converted barn. The first students attended classes at St. Monica School in September 1928. The first Mass in the basement of the present church was May 7, 1939. The first Mass in the Upper Church (the current building) was Dec. 24, 1955.

Hartmann, who will celebrate 25 years since his ordination later this year, said he has enjoyed the return to parish work.

The parish is attempting to start a twinning relationship with All Saints on the city of Milwaukee's north side, and last summer, Fr. Hartmann traveled to the former Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan, a nation of just six priests and just a few thousand Catholics. He hopes to formalize a relationship with between his parish and that central Asian nation on the Chinese border.

PLAN A VISIT

■ St. Monica Parish
5681 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-332-1576

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m.



▲ St. Monica Parish was founded in 1923 in Whitefish Bay. At the time it was built, it was the largest church building in the archdiocese.

◀ St. Monica Parish is highly visible on Silver Spring Drive in Whitefish Bay.

WHO WAS ST. MONICA?

- Monica was born in 322 into a Christian family in Tagaste, in North Africa. Her parents selected a husband for her, a pagan named Patricius.
- Monica and Patricius had three children. The eldest son, Augustine, although a talented scholar, was a source of constant worry for Monica. She prayed constantly that he and her husband would someday join her in worship. Eventually, her faith and kindness were partially rewarded: her husband and his mother converted to Christianity.
- But Monica's son Augustine seemed hopeless.



- He ran away from school, returned to the house and insulted Monica.
- Still, Monica did not give up. Eventually, Monica turned to the Bishop Ambrose in Italy, who brought Augustine to God by appealing to his intelligence instead of his emotions.
- Her son became so strongly drawn to the faith that he was eventually canonized - as St. Augustine, one of the Church's greatest teachers and philosophers.
- She is the patroness of wives and mothers.

We celebrate her Feast Day on May 4 or Aug. 27.

(Source: Catholic Online)

Is it Too Early to Discuss Lenten Fasting?

As you may know, this year Ash Wednesday falls on one of the tardiest possible dates: March 6 (if you are curious, Ash Wednesday's latest possible date is March 10). We are now about three weeks away from the beginning of Lent. As I told you in my first column, I plan on writing about the crossroads between our liturgical seasons and modern life; so I thought we could begin preparing for Lent with one of the most popular and adapted Christian practices:

Lenten fasting. It is one of the three observances of Lent, along with prayer and almsgiving. I think it would be very good to remember that, in its origin, Lenten fasting was linked to almsgiving: individuals would give up something but then give to the poor what they saved through the sacrifice. Modern adaptations of fasting have us giving up chocolate, alcohol, desserts, etc. Even more modern adaptations have people giving up social media. You will see many Facebook friends posting something about, "See you in Easter" in some cases, to some delight of our own.

All these "give-ups" are good.



OF TIMES AND SEASONS

FR. RICARDO MARTIN

However, as we reflected with New Year's Resolutions, they could be very self-referential. Giving up things we enjoy is good, but I think it would be important to choose something that would keep the connection with almsgiving. If you give up chocolate or desserts, calculate what you are saving, and donate those savings for some worthy cause. At my parish, we give a white box to our parishioners at the beginning of Lent, like a piggy bank where they can keep what they save. For the last two Lents, we have been able to finance the building of two chapels/community centers in the Dominican Republic with the proceeds

from our Lenten fasting.

I propose that we give up something material so our sacrifice can help others, but maybe something else, more in terms of bad habits or behaviors. Recently arrived in the seminary, I heard a Lenten homily by Bishop Sklba in which he said something I will never forget: "If you ask someone who loves you what you should give up for Lent, rest assured this person will not tell you to give up coffee or chocolate." They will tell us to give up whining, or procrastinating, or not cleaning up after ourselves. They will probably invite us not to yell at our children, or not to watch so much TV or Netflix, or whatever platform you use for binge-watching shows. Giving up alcohol — especially if you drink in excess — may be one of the few instances where giving up one thing may cover both aspects, the material and the behavioral. I invite you to start to think about what you should give up and ask others who care what that should be. We should come up with at least two: one that really helps us with some bad habit or behavior, and another one more material that can

be translated into almsgiving. In my case, I will definitely not give up coffee because, believe me, I am insufferable enough to those around me already and lacking coffee would make it even worse for them.

The very serious practice of fasting has yet another modern connection with popular modern minimalism. As Fr. Phillip Bogacki said in the podcast last Lent, Jesus preached about minimalism and fasting well before it was popular. Perhaps you have heard of Marie Kondo, an expert on "tidying up," who preaches a method to empty our spaces of clutter and unnecessary stuff. I am a recovering messy person: my dad once came into my very small and messy room, and put everything in eight industrial trash bags with a 24-hour notice to either clean up or he would throw the bags away. He got my attention.

I believe in order and minimalism, and I believe we keep too much: clothes, objects, gadgets, shoes, and even documents, mementoes, and a long etcetera. Lent is an opportunity to clean up and tidy up as well, but in addition to throwing away things that have no value to anybody, we may find ways to give away valuable things that may be donated or sold so others can benefit from our tidying up.

We should not forget to clean up and tidy up our souls, and get rid of so much clutter that inhabits there: we need a spiritual Marie Kondo that would review everything we have in our brains and in our hearts in terms of prejudgments, ideologies, tendencies, bad habits, worries and past regrets that may also need some tidying up. Lent is a great opportunity to do all that.

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Katie Krantz - A Joyful Missionary Among Us

SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

"All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with joyful cries." Psalm 47:2

And this is what Katie Krantz from St. Frances Cabrini in West Bend does several days a week as a missionary for SPIRITUS, a team of young adults in their 20s that operates out of Menasha, and whose goal is to inspire young Catholics through retreats and youth ministry while being formed as lifelong missionary disciples and leaders for the Church.

Krantz is one of 15 missionaries from all over the country who joined SPIRITUS this year, the 10th year this ministry has been operating. These young adults joyfully serve the Catholic youth throughout the state of Wisconsin in a nine-month program that has the power to change lives dramatically: the lives of those whom these missionaries encounter, as well as the lives of the missionaries themselves.

Eden and Katherine Foord, the founders of SPIRITUS, welcome a new team of missionaries each year, and share about the impact that SPIRITUS has. "Our youth desperately need young models of following Jesus and striving for holiness. SPIRITUS missionaries are those models, and are changing the lives of thousands by leading youth into powerful encounters with our Lord, which is life-changing for the missionaries as well."

Krantz and the rest of the SPIRITUS missionaries change lives by being living examples of growing in holiness and by spreading the Gospel of Jesus with abundant joy and passion. Their enthusiastic discipleship resonates with our youth and awakens these youth to their Catholic faith while energizing them to do their part in renewing the life of the Church. The primary way SPIRITUS missionaries achieve this is through the more than 150 retreats for more than 5,000 Catholic youth held each year. The focus of these various-themed retreats is to help young Catholics encounter God and to experience their faith in exciting and dynamic ways.

Krantz has seen the impact that this missionary work is having firsthand. "During our small group time, we are able to connect to students on a deeper level, and they often learn that they are not alone in their struggles," she said. "I frequently make it a priority to teach such groups how they can grow and support one another in community through prayer, compassion, and selflessness.



▲ Katie Krantz of West Bend is spending nine months as a missionary for SPIRITUS, which leads retreats for Catholic youth. (Photo courtesy of SPIRITUS)

It is beautiful to see the change in heart that the students have by the end of retreat as they come to realize the true presence of God in every part of their lives and the real meaning of hope."

The youth, however, aren't the only lives impacted by the SPIRITUS program. Team members are formed as lifelong missionary disciples through routines of prayer, spiritual direction, service and weekly formation courses. During their nine months of service, Krantz and the other missionaries will spend 534 hours in prayer, 152 hours in leadership formation, 132 hours in ministry training and 421 hours in direct ministry to Catholic youth. This is all done within an exciting, loving, and joyful community. Through this process, SPIRITUS team members are transformed and receive as much as they give.

Krantz said, "Being able to spend time in reflection and daily adoration has especially been a blessing. I am able to hear the voice of Christ in a new way – a whisper of love and encouragement during times of silence. It is so fulfilling to have time alone with Our Creator and hear him remind me of his presence in and around me. The time we are blessed with in adoration truly provides the strength needed to remind us all of our value and true identity in Christ."

Statistics also indicate the powerful work SPIRITUS is doing in forming leaders for the Church. Since its inception

in 2009, 16 alumni of the SPIRITUS teams have gone on to pursue religious life or priesthood and 70 percent of all alumni are currently working in ministry.

While the SPIRITUS missionaries are doing all they can to promote the Catholic Church by inspiring the youth to rejoice in the beauty of their faith, the work isn't always easy. Spending almost a year away from family and friends while working six days a week can take its toll. For this reason, the missionaries need all the support they can get from the Catholic community.

When asked how Catholics from Krantz's diocese can help support the mission, Eden responded, "Please pray for Katie, the other missionaries and all the youth they will inspire this year." Also, since SPIRITUS team members are not required to fundraise to pay for their living expenses while serving, "your financial support is very helpful." Eden also states, "Living the life of a missionary is extremely challenging, so your words of support will make a difference as well. You can send a message to Katie at katiekrantz@spiritusministries.org." In conclusion, "All these ways will help to support Katie and the mission to ignite the faith of Catholic youth."

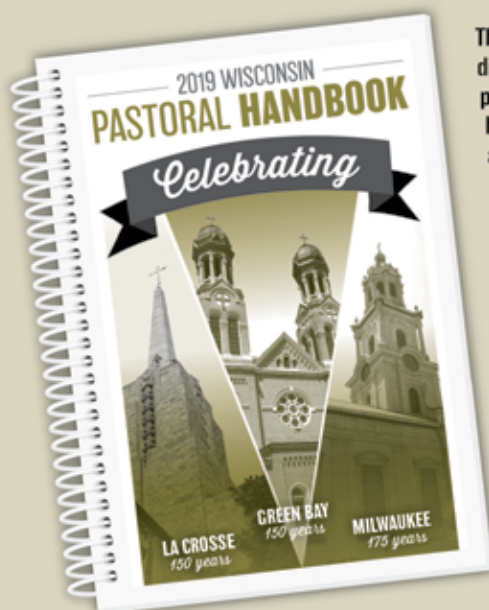
If you know of any young adults who want to inspire youth as a SPIRITUS missionary, please have them contact recruiter@spiritusministries.org.

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Learning the Sacraments



The K5 Religion class at St. Lucy School recently learned about baptism. They acted out the role of godparents and priest as they demonstrated the sacrament. The students took turns pouring water over their head of their "babies," smelling the chrism oil and holding the baptismal candle. The kindergarteners learned that they are members of God's special family, the Church. (Submitted photos)



St. Monica Starting Pre-K Program

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Because preschool children's first years of school are filled with wondrous moments, as well as social, emotional, physical and intellectual development, St. Monica's Grade School in Whitefish Bay also wants to ensure they have a solid faith background.

In the 2019-20 academic year, the school will offer a K3 program. According to Dean of Students Lynn McIntyre, the program will hopefully draw from those in the area going to other local preschools.

"We thought, why not provide quality programming here at St. Monica," she said. "We'll provide a strong Catholic foundation in a play-based, loving environment. We hope to nurture a love of learning, so we honor individual differences as students experience life in a classroom community."

In addition to helping the children develop a love for learning, St. Monica instructors will work with K3 students to use their Catholic Faith as direction in all they do, as well as engage their curiosity with educational activities.

"As a K-8 building, K3 students will, on occasion, have access to all St. Monica has to offer: a brand-new innovation center that houses programs for robotics and coding, a spacious art room, Mass in our beautiful church, a music room, Spanish class and a gym," said McIntyre. "Our 3-year-olds will explore play-based centers that inspire curiosity, social interaction, small muscle development and intellectual growth."

St. Monica plans to cap enrollment for K3 students at 18, with one teacher and one aid in the room. Students have the option of attending two, three or five half-day sessions and the curriculum will be based on the Wisconsin Model



▲ St. Monica School in Whitefish Bay will offer a 3-year-old kindergarten program for the 2019-20 school year. (Submitted photo)

Early Learning Standards (WMELS). The certified teachers will plan lessons that encourage exploration, discovery, social and emotional skills, mathematical thinking, foundations in literacy, and Catholic traditions and values. Young students will also visit the school library and have the opportunity to check out books.

Unique to the program are buddy classes, which pair a younger student with an older classmate, and next year the K3 students will participate in the partnership. Through the buddy classes, McIntyre said they are working to encourage community, leadership and teamwork.

"At least once a month, buddy classes get

together to read in partners, work on art projects or play games," she said. "New this year, our buddy classes also explore our Virtue of the Month, a way for our students schoolwide to explore virtues and connect our behaviors to our faith."

McIntyre said the St. Monica preschool program will offer a strong sense of community, and parents will feel a sense of pride in sending their children to their K3 program.

"It is important to give children a chance to socialize in a play-based environment, and it is an important developmental step," she said. "St. Monica School has a renewed sense of vibrancy that lends itself to new programming such as this: Growth,

Optimism and Dedication are felt by our community. This new K3 class is a great representation of that."

INTERESTED IN ST. MONICA'S 3K PROGRAM?

Contact Dean of Students Lynn McIntyre for more information

lmcintyre@stmonica.school
or 414-332-3660

www.stmonica.school

5635 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

3K Classes will be offered from 8:15-11:15 in the following sessions:

Sessions 1: Tuesday and Thursday

Sessions 2: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Sessions 3: Monday through Friday

Prayer Doesn't Wilt or Melt After Valentine's Day

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

All due respect to roses and those giant stuffed bears that line the aisles of your local drug store, but if you really want to make a romantic gesture for your spouse this Valentine's Day, consider spending some time together in prayer.

Maybe this is already part of your routine as a married couple — if so, kudos to you. For many couples, even the most devout Catholics, setting aside a few quiet minutes to pray together isn't as simple as it seems. Emily Burds, associate director for the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, knows well that not only is it difficult for some couples to find the time for prayer, it's also a challenge for other reasons.

"I've heard from so many people in my ministry, and even just my girlfriends, that they don't know how to pray with their husbands," she said. "It can be very intimidating for some people, especially if they're not comfortable with spontaneous prayer."

To aid couples in this regard, the Office for Marriage and Family Life recently launched the "Becoming One" prayer card — a free resource available to couples and parishes online at johnpaul2center.org (search "Becoming One").

"We've been sending out thousands of them," said Burds. "It's crazy how big of a need there is for this. People are starving for a chance to pray together and to grow in their marriages."

The prayer card is intentionally straightforward and matter-of-fact, including tips for postures and even providing a script (with blanks) to use if you're having trouble coming up with your own words. "The card provides



▲ Praying together could be the most romantic thing spouses can do for each other on Valentine's Day. (Getty Images photo)

simple directives to help couples open their hearts to each other and to Jesus," said Burds. "It's very physical-meeting-the-spiritual. It is an invitation to help people to inhabit their space, because sometimes physical postures are half the hurdle, and people simply feel awkward sitting in prayer with another person."

Still not convinced? Here are four reasons to carve out some time to spend with your spouse in prayer.

■ It will benefit your children. Your children — called "the crowning glory" of your marriage by the Catechism — are the first ones to benefit from any action or practice that helps your marriage, and they're the first to suffer when your relationship with your spouse is neglected.

■ It actually takes three to tango. There are three people in your marriage, and your relationship will suffer if you're not including that third one in the conversation. Sharing prayer time together isn't just about bringing a couple closer. It also helps to reinforce

the foundation of any Christian marriage and orient a husband and wife toward the ultimate source of their love — God Himself.

■ Prayer is always the answer — especially when you don't have the answer. There's the old saying — have you prayed about it as much as you've talked about it? Through prayer, we can plan, we can dream, we can problem-solve and we can communicate — but we can also learn to let go, to accept imperfections in ourselves and in our spouses, and to surrender ourselves to the will of God.

■ It's the best way to live out your vows. "If we think about the vows of marriage, we're promising this person that we're going to be free and total and faithful and fruitful, and when we pray together we're literally doing that," said Burds. "We're telling our spouse: 'I'm holding nothing back, I'm going to give you my heart and all the things I'm feeling and thinking, and sharing the ways I relate to Jesus, but also sharing my difficulties and relying on God with you, because that's what we promised one another from the beginning.'"



From Our Moms

How do you find time to spend in prayer with your spouse?

We say the rosary with one another as often as we can — every First Saturday for sure, and then as often as we can otherwise. Neither of us are very good at improvised prayer, especially out loud and with another person, so the rosary is perfect for us. We discuss the intentions together that we're offering the rosary for before we start.

— Dominique G.

We read the Psalms together. We find one that encapsulates what we're feeling or what we're needing to express to God, and we trade off reading lines.

— Lucy B.

We do a really simple "I'm sorry, God, for (blank); thank you, God, for (blank); and help me, God, with (blank). We do it as a family but you can also do it as a couple.

— Kathleen K.

If we're arguing about something, it's a clear sign we need to be praying together more. For us, arguing is evidence that we're starting to think like we're the ones in charge of our problems, or we're the ones who have the ability to solve them. We don't — we need God — but if we don't ask him, we forget that.

— Mary T.



'Do This, Shun That': The Two Paths of Life

Raising children finds its challenges, but perhaps one of the most important challenges facing a parent is that of forming their child's conscience, the ability to discern right from wrong ... to seek that which is good and to avoid what is evil. When my husband and I take our 4-year-old granddaughter out, she knows to take our hand until we get across the street. She knows when the stove is hot and she knows to hold the railing when she goes to the basement to play. She balked at first but she has learned through falling or burning her finger that she needs to listen and obey. These may seem like small things, but I believe they are the beginnings of conscience formation in the most primary way.

The next level is how to treat others when she is on the playground — to share, to take turns, not to engage in conflict. She already can recognize bullying behavior and is quick to tell us where it exits.

In the document *Gaudium et Spes*, Council fathers address conscience: *"Deep within their consciences men and women discover a law which they have not laid upon themselves and which they must obey. Its voice ever calling them to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, tells them inwardly at the right moment: do this, shun that. For they have in their hearts a law inscribed by God. Their dignity rests in observing this law, and by it they will be judged."* (16) As we mature, conscience formation must take place throughout our lives and that each day has its encounter with decisions that are good or evil, but even more sophisticated decisions must be made between what is the good and what is the greater good.

The sacred scriptures provide foundational direction for conscience formation. Psalm 1 opens as the Psalmist clearly defines "two ways" of living: one that leads to perdition and one that leads to life. The psalmist draws upon the



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

MARY MATESTIC

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 17:5-8
I Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

images of nature in a sublime fashion, casting the cursed into the wind like chaff; and placing the righteous as a tree near running waters where it bears much fruit.

Jeremiah picks up on the same theme. Once again, starting with the cursed, Jeremiah indicates that this person harbors with the wicked. This person has thrown all moral good to the wind and makes choices that turn his heart away from God. But the person who is blessed — who finds happiness on another level

of being — trusts in the Lord and finds hope in the Lord even when things can be difficult.

The polarities of the two paths, repeated in several places in the Old Testament, invite Jesus to take those polarities to a whole new level. The presupposition is that we are all invited to grow in our faith and move to deeper levels of awareness of God, self and others, so it is important to pay attention to the teachings of Jesus as he expounds on the beatitudes in Luke's Gospel. Jesus picks up on the "blessed and the cursed" motif.

In the eyes of Christ who are the blessed? To walk in the footsteps of Jesus is to live in the realm of paradox, especially when we hear the beatitudes this Sunday. Jesus paints a topsy-turvy world where the people the world would call wretched, Jesus calls happy. And happiness in the worldly sense, Jesus calls wretched and places the people in the category of the "woes." The woe people will live their lives in bliss in this world, but in the world to come, not so much. What Jesus is saying is that if we set our hearts and bend our lives on the pursuit of material things neglecting the poor in our cultural midst — blindsided to those who grieve or those who struggle — then what we worked for here is all we will get. There is nothing more.

But for those who lean upon God in utter dependence, their reward beyond this life will be rich and fulfilled. Having our fill now, receiving accolades and trophies in this world, will leave us empty in the next. For what we fail to realize is that this life will end and it is here that we shape our lives around the cross of Jesus Christ in order to make our way to the kingdom of heaven.

It is quite beautiful that Jesus repeats the "two paths" image prevalent in the Old Testament at the end of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. It comes as the parable of the two foundations: the person who builds his house on rock, which will resist the floods and the torrents of the storm vs. the person who builds his house on sand, where there is no foundation. When the river bursts, this house will collapse and be destroyed. (Luke 6:46-49)

And what constitutes that foundation for Jesus? The one who listens to his words and acts on them. Those people are happy.

At the end of the day, take some time to examine your last 24 hours and check to see where you have fallen short of the God's word. Or where have you risen above the fray to do good. Record your blessings and your struggles in order to learn from them.

Saint of the Week

St. Conrad of Piacenza (c. 1290 – Feb. 19, 1351) offers a different slant of holiness.

Born of a noble family in northern Italy, Conrad as a young man married Euphrosyne, daughter of a nobleman.

Married, he and his wife opted to live separate lives — she as a Poor Clare and

he as a Franciscan hermit. All this after he set a fire which was spread by the wind and destroyed the nearby fields, forests, and town.

His reputation for holiness, however, spread quickly. Since his many visitors destroyed his solitude, Conrad went to a more remote spot in Sicily where he lived 36 years as a hermit, praying for himself and for the rest of the world.

We celebrate his Feast Day on Feb. 19.



Holy Brewers on Tap at St. Eugene

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

St. Eugene Parish will host its annual Holy Brewers Beer Tasting at 5:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16.

The tasting, which begins after the 5 p.m. Mass and runs until 9 p.m., will feature 10 varieties of home brews crafted for this year's theme of "Winter Warmer: Think Flannel!" Attendees will also have the opportunity to sample wine, soda and cider, as well as several varieties of soup, chili, stew and sandwiches.

A special fundraiser brew, Sierra Nevada Resilience IPA, will also be available for tasting, and donations will be distributed to Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and other partner organizations who are providing fire relief and recovery for victims of the wildfires.

The Holy Brewers event had humble beginnings almost a decade ago, when several parishioners who enjoyed home



▲ Larry Boynton and Pete Weingarten at a previous Holy Brewers event. This year's will take place Saturday, Feb. 16. (Submitted photo)

brewing had the idea to host a beer tasting in the parish's Mackin Hall. Just 25 or 30 people attended the first event, said Dan Karasch, one of the home brewers who now helps to organize the fundraiser.

"It was very casual — I don't even know if that first time there was food served,"

he said. "It was just kind of sit down and taste the beer."

In the years that followed, the event grew in brewers and in attendees, incorporating annual themes and a menu of food. Organizers began to charge admission to cover the cost of the food, with the intent to donate any proceeds back to the parish.

"The original intent was, we like brewing beer, we wanted to share the brews with the parish, have a social community event, have it be fun and provide an opportunity for people to get together," said Karash.

Now, it has developed into a robust fundraiser that is able to generate between \$2,000 and \$3,000 annually for the parish, said Karasch.

This year's winter theme has inspired participants to produce brews like an Empire Builder Imperial Cream Ale and a bourbon-barrel stout called "Pete's Dragonslayer." The evening's offering of cozy soups will include a parsnip potato ginger soup, seafood gumbo, several family chili recipes and a lentil soup.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Advance tickets can be obtained by either contacting Pete Weingarten at petewein04@yahoo.com or by logging on to steugenecongregation.org, clicking on "events," then clicking on "Holy Brewers."

Mass of Thanksgiving Celebrates African Heritage and Faith

KAREN MAHONEY
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

The annual Mass of Thanksgiving to Celebrate African Heritage will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at St. Martin de Porres Parish at Second and Burleigh in Milwaukee.

The Mass is in conjunction with Black History Month and funded in part by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal, the Black and Indian Mission Grant, the African Catholic Committee and Black Catholic Ministry Commission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, as well as other free will donations. Fr. Peter Patrick Kimani is the celebrant, and a fellowship and dinner will

immediately follow. The Voices of Africa Choir will sing throughout the Mass.

According to organizer Reine Assana, this Mass, which is open to all, is likely the only celebration of its kind in the country.

IF YOU WANT TO GO:

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Black and Catholic: Celebrating African Heritage and Giving Thanks

Sunday, Feb. 17, 4 p.m.

St. Martin de Porres Parish
3114 N. Second St., Milwaukee

"As Africans, this is a way to share our heritage and our spirituality with the local community," she said. "This is an African tradition where every year we gather to give thanks for what the Lord has done for each and every one of us."

This will be the fourth time since 2016 the community has gathered to celebrate this Thanksgiving Mass, said Antoinette Mensah, Society for the Propagation of Faith.

"The first two years, the Mass was held at St. Margaret Mary with 200-300 in attendance and the third year it was held at St. Catherine's on 51st

and Center. It was incorporated into the parish Sunday liturgy during their international celebration," she said. "It is hosted during February as another way to connect and celebrate our heritage as Africans and African Americans. Participating communities are asked to bring a gift of thanks and these donations are presented during the offertory. The donations are presented to the host parish and range from canned food, cleaning supplies or even cash."

While gratitude for God's blessings is

► READ MORE PAGE 21

Annual Mardi Gras Ball Benefits St. Peter Claver Scholarship Fund

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

New Orleans attracts about 1.5 million festival-goers for Mardi Gras each year. It's a celebration of purple, green and gold that shines brightly throughout the city. Locally, Fat Tuesday will come a bit early this year when the Knights of St. Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary host their 31st annual Mardi Gras Scholarship Ball at the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield. The ball on March 2 results from the collaboration of several area parishes: St. Francis of Assisi, All Saints, St. Martin de Porres and St. Michael, Blessed Savior and St. Rose.

Founded in 1909 in Mobile, Alabama, the Knights of St. Peter Claver was created during a time when Black Catholics were forbidden from joining white fraternal organizations.

Named after St. Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest who converted more than 300,000 African slaves to Catholicism, the Knights of St. Peter Claver is the largest African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States. The group's purpose is to render service to God and his Holy Church, render aid and assistance to the sick and disabled, and promote social and intellectual association among their members. The group is headquartered in New Orleans, and there are more than 700 units throughout the United States, and one in Colombia, South America.

► THANKSGIVING, FROM PAGE 20

important, Mensah said the Mass during Black History Month is especially poignant because it is an opportunity to acknowledge the struggles for freedom, both in the United States as well as on the continent of Africa.



▲ Knights of Peter Claver (from left) Albert Thompson, Arthur Whitehead and Grand Knight Virgil Cameron pose with Archbishop Jerome ListECKi (second from left) at a previous Mardi Gras event. (Submitted photo)

In 1926, the Ladies Auxiliary was established to offer African-American laywomen the same opportunities in faith, unity and charity. The Ladies Auxiliary now consists of more than 11,000 members.

In 1982, the late Br. Booker T. Ashe, OFM Cap, founded the first Court and Council of the Knights of St. Peter Claver in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee group is affiliated with four Central City parishes, including All Saints, St.

Francis, St. Martin de Porres and St. Michael.

According to Virgil Cameron, President Inter-Council and Grand Knight of Council #281, the organization's major fundraiser benefits the St. Peter Claver Scholarship Fund.

"This scholarship is for all high school students going on to college," he said. "They have to be eligible, which includes filling out a questionnaire, participating in church and other activities and carrying a GPA of C or above. The scholarship varies as to the number of students that receive one — generally four or five a year will receive some sort of stipend towards college."

More than 400 guests attend the annual Mardi Gras ball that includes dinner, a DJ and dancing.

"We have an emcee and always have some of the kids from the youth groups

put on a show with dancing," said Cameron. "The Archbishop (Jerome ListECKi) usually attends. It is a really great time. We also sell raffle tickets for cash prizes. Our top prize is \$500 and third prize is a one-night stay at Potawatomi Hotel and Casino, and \$50 cash. The drawing will take place the night of the ball."

IF YOU WANT TO GO:

Mardi Gras Ball and Raffle

Saturday, March 2

5:30 - 11p.m.

Sheraton Hotel
375 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield

Tickets: \$60 includes dinner and dancing

Deadline to purchase: February 21

Tickets available at any of the collaborating parishes or through the Knights or Ladies of St. Peter Claver

● **FRIDAY, FEB. 15**

Prayer Service: 12:15 p.m., Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson St., Milwaukee. A 30-minute communal contemplative prayer service with the intention of reconciling and healing racism in our city.

Fish Fry: 4 to 7 p.m., St. Bernadette, 8200 W. Denver Ave., Milwaukee. Coleslaw, fries or potato salad, bread and coffee included; potato pancakes, soda, beer and milk available for purchase. Kids' meals and takeout available. 414-358-4600, stbweb.com.

Fish Fry: 4:30 to 7 p.m., Mother of Perpetual Help, 1212 S. 117th St., West Allis. Fried or baked cod, fried shrimp, buttered potatoes, French fries, mac n' cheese and more. mphwa.org/events-1.

ADORE Family Hour: 6:30 p.m., St. Charles, 313 Circle Drive, Hartland. Family-friendly holy hour for parents and children to adore the Blessed Sacrament alongside one another. Open gym and refreshments to follow.

● **SUNDAY, FEB. 17**

Past Pastor Mass: 9 a.m., Gesu Parish, 1145 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. In the ongoing

celebration of Gesu's 125th anniversary, previous pastors are returning to celebrate Mass. This week's presider is Fr. Andrew Alexander, S.J. Reception to follow in Lower Church.

Sunday TV Mass: 5:30 a.m. on WITI-TV channel 6 and 9 a.m. on WCGV-TV channel 24. For Catholics unable to attend a parish Mass due to illness, frailty, caregiving for loved ones, inclement weather or other grave circumstances. Online Mass video: www.heartofthenation.org. Information: 414-475-4700.

● **WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20**

Cor Jesu: 7 to 9 p.m., St. Robert, 2200 E. Capitol Drive, Shorewood. Prayer with music, silence, reconciliation, 8 p.m. Mass, followed by social in the parking lot.

● **THURSDAY, FEB. 21**

Catholic Professionals Forum: 7:30 to 9 a.m., Westmoor Country Club, 400 S. Moorland Road, Brookfield. Come network with other Catholic professionals. \$20 at the door. The featured speaker is Tracy Earl Welliver, Director of Parish Community and Engagement for LPI. Visit

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► **HERALD OF HOPE, FROM PAGE 3**

social activities yet turn a blind eye to the yearly destruction of more than a million human lives.

It's terrible that we in 2019 find our society in this position, but even more so that we celebrate the horrific act of legalized "infanticide" by popping champagne corks and lighting buildings to acknowledge the furtherance of the culture of death.

In our own personal lives, when we choose to do evil, there are consequences. It is called "sin." When we choose to do evil as a society, there are consequences. There is a collective responsibility. The Old Testament prophets warned their communities that they were turning their backs on God's will; unless they return to God there would be a reckoning. It is a fact that more than 50 million human lives have been denied birth since 1973. Doctors, scientists, engineers and saints were prevented from helping the human condition. Do you believe that our community has become more sensitive to the struggles of human life or has the creeping "culture of death" enshrined in our laws caused us to pursue other areas, such as euthanasia or the discussion of eugenic sterilization (the creation of a master race) limiting human

dignity? What was attributed to the callousness of the Nazis is now being embodied in the law of our nation.

What steps do we take to stem this ugly trend? Some would advocate the imposition of canonical sanctions (excommunication) upon the political leaders who support and promote this activity. Excommunication should be both a punishment but also medicinal. Many are Catholic in name only; any true Catholic would never think the taking of an innocent life would be tolerated by our faith. Others would desire that communion be denied these public figures and enforced by the local authorities, but many ignore Church authorities and I wonder how many are attending Church on a regular basis. Do you think these politicians are going to confession? Many call themselves Catholic but do they really understand the teachings of the Church? But the real problem lies with our Catholic community that justifies the voting for candidates who would support anti-life actions. Therefore, it begins with us making our voices heard as politicians vie for our votes and refusing to accept the rationalization that we can make these heinous actions rare and limited. Human life demands our respect, protection, and nothing less.

► **GESU 125TH, FROM PAGE 5**

roof again — probably the archdiocese's "first merger," said O'Brien.

The ornate new church, designed by Milwaukee's own Henry Koch, was given a simple name: Gesu, the Italian name for Jesus and the name of the Jesuit mother church in Rome, where the remains of St. Ignatius are buried.

Today, Gesu is staffed and sponsored by priests from the Midwest Jesuit Province, separately incorporated

as a parish of the archdiocese. Though it is legally separate from Marquette University, it is nevertheless closely entwined with the school's student body and campus life. The parish serves about 1,300 "member units" or households, said O'Brien, but its reach really extends much farther than that. Not only do faculty and students flock to Gesu when Marquette is in session, but many members of the local community who are homeless regularly attend Mass and utilize parish services.

"We're not a typical neighborhood parish," said O'Brien.

"In fact, we don't have a neighborhood — we have a university campus," said Fr. Flaherty. "When people come to Gesu, it's an intentional act, because they're typically driving by two or three parishes on their way here."

Keep an eye on the "Happenings" page for upcoming events related to Gesu's 125th anniversary.

DCN. PAT LAPOINTE

Dcn. Pat LaPointe, now 61, likes to say the first 50 years of his life was for himself and his family — but the next 50 are for God.

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

You're a cradle Catholic, but fell away from the Church as a young man — what brought you back?

When our oldest was born, that just had a transformational impact on me. I came back with a zeal. We had been living in Nebraska after I got out of the Air Force, so we moved back here and I started going back to St. Louis. I did the music there and cantored and got very active, and I've been active ever since.

You first felt the call to the permanent diaconate in the late 1980s — why didn't you pursue it then?

My wife Cat told me that she said she didn't want her children, potentially, not to have a mom if something happened to her, and because of the celibacy of Holy Orders, I wouldn't be able to remarry. So we agreed I wouldn't be ordained until our youngest was an adult. And in that time in between, I matured quite a bit in my faith.

You're a caretaker for Cat, who suffers from diabetes with renal and cardiac complications — how does that impact or enhance your ministry?

Cat has had diabetes since the age of 12, and in the third year of my formation she was hospitalized for nine weeks when she had an extreme diabetic event. She came out of the hospital having to be in a wheelchair, and she's pretty much been confined since then. When it first happened, Dcn. John Ebel, the director of diaconal formation, asked me if I had the bandwidth to continue with formation. I told him I thought that I did, and he let me proceed with formation. About a year ago, I went back to John and I thanked him profusely because I realized, I'm Cat's caretaker, but if I didn't have my diaconate ministry, that's all I would be. But, by allowing me to become a deacon, I now have this greater impact and I'm also able to share the Lord — but also still be Cat's caretaker.

And she's your main supporter, too — you call her your "time governor."



- Resides in Bay View with wife Cat; they have four grown children and will celebrate their 40th anniversary Feb. 17
- Grew up on the Milwaukee-Racine county line and attended St. Louis in Caledonia
- Served in the Air Force from 1978 to 1981
- Works as an IT director for a manufacturing company in Mequon
- Ordained in 2014 and ministers to the parishes of St. Paul, Sacred Heart, St. Veronica, Nativity of the Lord, St. Augustine and Immaculate Conception (Bay View)



▲ Dcn. Pat LaPointe serves six different parishes in southern Milwaukee County. (Submitted photo)

She's 100 percent behind this. That's just our dynamic. And ministry is about taking your life's experiences and sharing it. I've gone through the experience, three times, of almost losing her, so it's helped me relate to others who have gone through this. And she's also the one who tells me when I have to say no. When we first came back to the Church, I went overboard — I was away from home way too much. She helped me to find a balance.

What's the best advice you've been given?

Manuel Maldonado-Villalobos, the associate director of the diaconate formation program, told us: "This is formation leading to transformation. You will not be the same man at the end of this process." That turned out to be so totally true. And that's why I tell men who are discerning the diaconate — your wife has to be on board with this, because you will change along the way — hopefully for the good.

What's your secret talent?

I used to be a mime when I was in high school and college. The person who taught Marcel Marceau was Etienne Decroux, and I learned to be a mime from Reid Gilbert, who was also taught by Etienne Decroux.

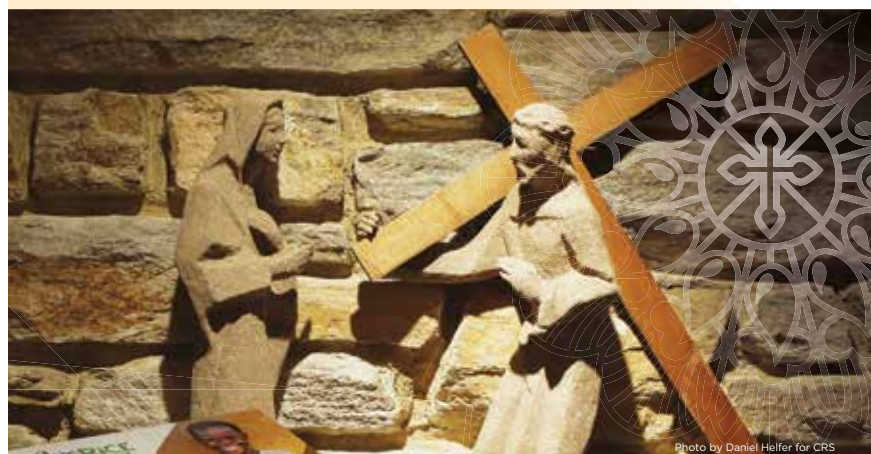
You have a long history with music ministry, and you often sing during your homilies. What's your favorite kind of liturgical music?

I like music that has a message. When I do end up using a song in a homily, it has to be very tied to the message. I like to do a homily that people will remember, something that connects to them, and a lot of time music does that. So they'll remember the song, but not necessarily what I said it around it — so if the lyrics are tightly tied to what I was saying in the homily, the same message comes across.

If you had to invite a saint or religious figure to dinner, who would it be and why?

St. Patrick, because I think it's amazing that he was a slave in Ireland but he fell in love with the people so much that he decided to go back and share the love of Christ with them.

encounter Lent



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