



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Ministry to the Homebound *Connected to Our Faith and Community in the Eucharist*

Our parish family includes more than those who attend our weekend Masses. Some of our longest-standing parishioners are those who are homebound and unable to attend Mass anymore, but they are just as valuable to our community. The Ministry to the Homebound ensures that these parishioners know they are not forgotten, bringing them the most central part of our faith — the Eucharist.

Susan Wieggers has been coordinating the Ministry to the Homebound for about 10 years. Her personal experience has taught her to give special care to the elderly.

“I was a home health nurse for years, so I’m very partial to older people as I am becoming one myself,” Susan says. “In our society, older people are kind of pushed to the side and I think that

this ministry helps to make them feel like they are still an important part of our community.”

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Susan Wieggers has been coordinating the Ministry to the Homebound for about 10 years.

Ministry to the Homebound

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The trained volunteers visit parishioners in their homes and nursing homes. When someone is assigned to a minister of care, they arrange to meet with them regularly, bringing them the Eucharist directly from Mass. The minister leads those present through a brief service including the Confiteor, a Scripture reading, and the Our Father before administering Communion. By bringing the Eucharist directly from Mass, the ministers of care are able to include the homebound parishioners in our community's celebration of the Holy Mass.

"Any time that you serve people, it's important to let them know that they are still part of the parish," Susan says. "The Eucharist is, to any Catholic, the most important thing in our faith."

Ministers of care receive training as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion if they have not already been trained. They are encouraged to spend some time with those they are visiting. These visits, even when they are brief, make such a difference to our parishioners.

"It's very rewarding," Susan says. "The people that we see are so happy to be part of it. They just feel like they're not forgotten."

Homebound parishioners, or their family members, can reach out to the Ministry to the Homebound to ensure that they have the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. Often, families reach out to the parish, and the names are passed on to Susan, who then assigns one of her ministers to meet with that parishioner. While the Ministry to the Homebound serves those in their homes or nursing homes, hospital visits are made by a priest, deacon, or religious.

Parishioners are always welcome to join the Ministry to the Homebound. This ministry has served the parish long before Susan became part of it and seeing the dedication of the volunteers has impacted her deeply.

"They're very committed and no one has ever turned me down when I've asked them to do something," Susan says. "Our ministers are wonderful people who take this very seriously."

We recognize and extend our gratitude to the members of this essential ministry.

Susan Wiegers
Ministry of Care Leader

Ministers of Care Members:

Mary Campbell
Catherine Epplin
Deacon David Fields
Julie Harris
Peter Joergensen
Phyllis Lang
Robert McCormack
Susan McCormack
Lynn O'Neill
John Reitano
Carissa Reitano
Paula Segert
Rachel Strong
Stephen Szewczyk
James Townsend
Deacon Wayne Weiler

To serve, or to receive visits from the Ministry to the Homebound, contact Susan Wiegers at 618-304-2355 or suwi@sbcglobal.net.

A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector

Sharing Christ's Love Is the Hallmark of a Christian Disciple

Dear Parishioners,

All summer long, Mrs. Hobbs spent time in school getting things ready for a new beginning. Sister Tess and her staff did the same for the Parishes School of Religion. Their heroic service is a genuine work of love for our parish and the children of our programs this year. That gift of love is a great example to all. Sharing the love of Christ and sharing that love — lovingly — are hallmarks of a Christian disciple, of a Catholic devoted to following Christ.

As September begins, we have just celebrated (really!) the loving generosity of our parishioners. Our annual Stewardship Renewal took place the last three weekends in August. Every parish family has been invited to celebrate the good gifts God has given and to share those gifts with our parish, and through our parish, with those who are in need. That simple tri-fold card may seem to some to be rather insignificant, but it is truly related to bringing up the bread and wine at Mass. We offer what we have for the sake of others. And as we know, the Lord loves a cheerful giver. Our stewardship commitment is our way of being faithful to our work of discipleship. As in Matthew 25, the Lord expects us to use the talents we've been given for the good of the Church, the parish, the needy and not to bury or hide them. Having been given such great gifts, we're called to be grateful and generous. That generosity brings so much joy to the disciple.

If we need any inspiration in becoming generous disciples, let's take our inspiration from the example of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Her willingness to love everyone was her own generosity of spirit — caring for the poorest of the poor, the most neglected. We celebrate her memorial on Sept. 5. May her prayer for us help us



see others as she did. More information on her follows later in this newsletter.

On Sept. 14, we keep the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Never has the world seen a more loving gift of self than on the cross of Jesus Christ. His love is poured out for our life, for our salvation. What have we graciously been given for the good of others?

Let's commit ourselves to "do small things with great love," for the glory of God and the good of our parish in the days ahead. God bless you all!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr Godfrey OSB". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Cathedral Rector



Dessert D

Sharing Talents and Providing Sweets



A fun new ministry has begun at the Cathedral of St. Peter. For those who love to cook and bake, this is the perfect opportunity to share your time and talent!

We know there are many ministries and ways to serve in the church. The Dessert Disciples is a simple ministry that has an important impact on our faith community. This group has a special role and gives its members an opportunity to give to others in a way that doesn't require a major time commitment.

"Last fall, Father messaged me to ask if I would help organize this ministry," says Kim Iberg, the coordinator for this ministry. "I thought it sounded like fun so I was excited to be a part of it!"

Many different events at the parish need desserts or treats to be provided. This ministry brings together those who have a desire to serve and the ability to whip up some delicious treats to be enjoyed — importantly, this takes something off of the plate for those who are tasked with organizing the events themselves.

"There are all sorts of events at the parish where there is a need for desserts," Kim says. "We provided cakes, cupcakes, cookies, and bars for the reception after the diaconate ordination. Our parish staff and the leaders of these ministries work so hard to put these events together.

"This is a great way for people to get involved who don't normally think of. It also provides a way to be involved that doesn't require a lot of time and they can still be a part of a ministry and they can't give much more."

Disciples: *for Wide Range of Community Events*

When they are able to give me a call and I can reach out to our generous volunteers to provide these desserts, it takes a lot off of them.”

When an event needs desserts to be provided, the event coordinators contact Kim with the details and how many people are expected. Kim sends out an email to her list of ministry members who reply if they are able to help out with this particular event and what they plan on making. The members prepare their goodies at home and drop them off at the church.

“This is a great way for people to be involved in a way that you don’t normally think of,” Kim says. “It also gives our busy parishioners a way to be involved that doesn’t require a big commitment. They can still be a part of a ministry even when their lives are busy and they can’t give much time.”

Having a large group who share their talents with this ministry allows flexibility for those involved.

“If you are busy or unable to help with this event, there are others there who can step up and help,” Kim says.



Anyone interested in being a part of this ministry can contact Kim Iberg at dkrwiberg@gmail.com.

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Young Adult Initiative Provides Essential Platform for Hospitality and Community

In August 2022, the Cathedral of St. Peter partnered with St. Clare of Assisi Parish, O’Fallon, receiving a grant from the Lilly Endowment through St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology for a focused effort in welcoming young adults more completely into the life of the parish. The grant program offers two workshops each year at St. Meinrad to help focus our work. The Young Adult Initiative staff at St. Meinrad has urged us not to engage a “youth group model” where we create events solely for young adults, but to provide opportunities where parishioners of other ages are given the opportunity to accompany young adults in faith and fellowship.

A Core Group for the Young Adult Initiative was formed, including Aaron Augustine, Sarah Daubach, Carissa and Johnny Reitano, Jane Stock, Greta and Rob Stock, along with Fr. Godfrey. As a result of one of the meetings of the Core Group, the idea of having a walk through the Mass was surfaced. On Thursday evening, June 29, Fr. Godfrey hosted a presentation, walking through the less-noticed parts of the Mass and offering time for Q&A. Approximately 50 people took part, including a good number of young adults from our parish and from other parishes as well. Participants seemed glad to learn something about the Mass. More liturgical catechesis along these lines will follow.

On Saturday morning, July 8, another presentation was offered on the topic of hospitality. As the first pillar of Parish Stewardship, hospitality is that spirit of welcome for everyone. Perhaps hospitality is also the first pillar of Young Adult Ministry as well, welcoming people who have a rightful place in our parish community and assuring that their welcome is appropriate. Using the book *Radical Hospitality*, Fr. Godfrey offered two talks on hospitality as an openness of the heart for the other, for Christ, and by



Christ for us. Further, using the perspective of stewardship, he discussed how hospitality is wired into creation from the first days — described in Genesis 1. While stranger-danger is an appropriate perspective for children, an openness to the other is generally more helpful for adults.

Dozens of copies of the book, *Radical Hospitality*, were provided for the parish through the grant. The book seems to have ignited new energy around the topic of hospitality. Again, at this workshop, there was an excellent mix of young adults and other parishioners accompanying one another on the way to holiness.

The Young Adult Core Group is preparing for more events, including a social event with St. Clare, along with more catechetical events, geared primarily to young adults, but open to all. Young adults will also be engaged in the work of the Stewardship Renewal in August.

Hospitality is a necessary element to all that we do as a parish. The workshops on the Mass and on hospitality were both not only discussions of the concept but experiences of the values.

As the first pillar of Parish Stewardship, hospitality is that spirit of welcome for everyone. Perhaps hospitality is also the first pillar of Young Adult Ministry as well, welcoming people who have a rightful place in our parish community and assuring that their welcome is appropriate.



St. Teresa of Calcutta

A Modern Model of Sainthood

In the dark final years of the Cold War, a small woman — standing at barely five feet tall — offered a living counternarrative to the inhibiting fear undergirding our daily lives and our foreign affairs. Instead of living in fear, Mother Teresa acted out of love. Instead of withdrawing and isolating herself, she gave tirelessly to others.

Many of us harbor a personal connection to this saint, for we lived during the height of the media coverage of Mother Teresa's work and her friendships with Pope St. John Paul II and the beloved Princess Diana.

Long before she received the name Mother Teresa and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born on Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, the crossroads of the Balkans. The youngest of three children, Mother Teresa was raised predominately by her mother after her father's death, when she was about 8 years old. Dranfile (Drana) Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa's mother, undoubtedly became a strong influence on her daughter's vocation, since Drana herself was a devout Catholic and known for her prayer life and her charity.

Agnes attended a Catholic primary school and, following

the example of her mother, became active in their parish and sang in Sacred Heart's choir. As a young person, Agnes enjoyed reading the lives of the saints — while immersing herself in the stories of these holy men and women, Agnes first felt the stirring call to become a missionary.

At the age of 18, Agnes traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to join the Sisters of Loreto. She became Sr. Mary Teresa, named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and began to learn English. Within a few months of arriving in Ireland, she left for India.

In India, Sr. Mary Teresa lived at the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta, where she served as an educator and taught at St. Mary's School. After her final profession, she became Mother Teresa and, a few years later, began serving as the school's principal.

On an ordinary day, Mother Teresa received an extraordinary call. While on a train ride to her annual retreat, Mother Teresa felt what she would describe as Jesus' thirst for souls. Soon, Jesus called her to found the Missionaries of Charity, an order devoted to serving the "poorest of the poor."

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CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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St. Teresa of Calcutta *continued from page 7*

The order formally began on Oct. 7, 1950, and has grown from one woman tending the sick and dying in the streets of Calcutta to over 4,500 religious sisters helping the poor in over 130 countries around the world. Additionally, the order grew to include the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, the Missionaries of Charity Fathers and the Lay Missionaries of Charity.

Though externally Mother Teresa joyfully and indefatigably served the poor for nearly 50 years, during the majority of this time, she experienced a “dark night of the soul,” an extensive period of not feeling God’s presence or hearing His voice. Other saints, notably St. John of the Cross, similarly experienced a dark night of the soul. Despite this spiritual struggle, Mother Teresa continued her

work joyfully throughout her sickness and until her death on Sept. 5, 1997.

Pope St. John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa in 2003. Fittingly, a pontiff who has underscored the importance of social justice celebrated her canonization. On Sept. 4, 2016, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa, the “Saint of the Gutters,” at the Vatican.

St. Teresa of Calcutta offers us an example of ceaseless prayer and selfless service. She is a modern model of sainthood that we can emulate in our daily lives starting with how we serve and treat the other members of our family, our faith community and all those with whom we interact on a daily basis.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Pray for Us!

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m., Friday School Mass 8:15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

Monday through Friday: 7:15 a.m., Thursday: 6-7:00 p.m., Saturday: 3-3:45 p.m.