



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Caring Contact Ministry *Ensuring All Parishioners Know They Belong*

Here in our faith community, we are blessed with a wonderful parish family. Together, we strive to bear witness to Christ in this world, encouraging and supporting one another along the way. And while most of us see each other often — at Mass and other parish events — some of our fellow parishioners get out less than they would like. There is a whole group of parishioners who, for a multitude of reasons, don't get to Mass each week and/or don't get to participate in many parish activities. Yet, they are an important part of our parish family, and we want to be sure that we tell them so.

The Caring Contact Ministry reaches out to these parishioners every month. Karen Kohlmeier, who currently coordinates the ministry, receives a list of parishioners from

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*Karen Kohlmeier writing
notes to parishioners*

Caring Contact Ministry

continued from front cover

the rectory. Ministry members then write notes to these parishioners once a month.

“Some of the parishioners we write to are homebound but others simply can’t get to church much,” Karen says.

Karen first got involved in the Caring Contact Ministry last year when she saw it on a list of parish ministries.

“When I saw it listed, I thought it would be a way that I could serve parishioners from my own home,” she says. “Finding time to serve others can be hard for me with all I have going on, but this is something I can do when I have the time.”

What Karen has found is an experience that is not only convenient for her schedule, but fulfilling for her heart, as well.

“There are a few of the parishioners that we write to that I see every so often at Mass,” Karen says. “When I see them, they always greet me with a smile and they hold my hands a bit longer when we say hello. I can tell it means a lot to them that we reach out, and that is a blessing to me.”

Caring Contact Ministry members reach out to about 35 parishioners altogether. Each ministry member is given the names of three to four people off of the list every month, and then they are charged with getting the cards, writing the cards, and mailing them to the recipients.

“We supply our own cards and stamps,” Karen says. “We write notes telling these parishioners that they are loved and thought of often. We want them to know that we are praying for them regularly. They are important to St. Peter, even if they aren’t around much, and we want to be sure that they know that.”

One day, Karen got a note in the mail telling her the same!

“A parishioner wrote back to me,” Karen says. “It was one of the biggest joys for me. She told me how much she appreciated my note. It took me off guard because I wasn’t

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— Karen Kohlmeier

expecting it. It is nice to know that we are making an impact by what we do!”

In addition, Karen says she would like to offer her own appreciation to all of the volunteers who serve this ministry.

“It is wonderful that there are so many of us reaching out to others,” Karen says. “I am so grateful for the volunteers who give their time and offer their compassion to our fellow parishioners.”

If you are interested in becoming part of the Caring Contact Ministry, Karen says they would love to have you.

“It is so simple to write a card and let someone know you care, and the impact is invaluable,” Karen says.

If you know a parishioner who would like a monthly card, please contact the rectory.

If you are interested in joining the Caring Contact Ministry, contact Karen Kohlmeier at 618-973-3945 — she will provide you with all that you need to begin serving.

A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector

Circling Back to the

Basics of Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

Our parish has been committed to living Stewardship as a Way of Life for a while now, and I thought this might be a good time to circle back to the basics. Perhaps some of you hear the word “stewardship” and are still not sure what to think.

Wherever you fall in your understanding of stewardship, you may find yourself wondering why you even need to participate in the first place, or how you can possibly give more of yourself to God when you are already pressed for time, energy, and money.

As you try to answer these questions, the first thing to remember is that God is the source of the “three Ts” of stewardship — our time, talents, and treasure. If it were not for God, we would not have any of these.

The second key element on which to focus is to consider how you are receiving His gifts. Do you feel entitled to all He has given you, and perhaps demand even more from Him? Or do you thank Him for His abundant generosity, and as a sign of your gratefulness, return a portion back to Him?

God, in His infinite love and mercy for us, grants us these gifts during our time on Earth, even though we do not deserve them. As a sign of appreciation, we can give Him a return on His investment.

If God gives us a free Saturday afternoon, we could take our kids to Confession instead of watching TV, playing golf, or scrolling through the phone. If God gives us cooking skills, we could prepare a meal for a family with a newborn baby instead of going shopping.

Financial choices are applicable to stewards, as well. Do we waste our financial resources or take them for granted? Do we carefully think about what portion we should return to God?

However deep our understanding of stewardship, we must remember that it is not a rule or mandate — it is an invitation. No one is “forced” to live the life of a good steward. Our realization that God has blessed us — wherever we are in our faith journey — should drive our yearning to give back of our time, talent, and treasure.

Out of love for our Creator — and to continue to grow in His love — we should desire to give stewardship, as a way of life, a try.

Peace,



Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Cathedral Rector



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ALTHOFF CATHOLIC

Where Faith and Discip

Chances are you've driven past Althoff Catholic High School. Roughly 10 minutes from the cathedral, Althoff sits on West Main St., and most of us are familiar with its place in the architecture of our community. But do you know Althoff beyond the walls of its buildings?

"Althoff is a place where — rooted in Jesus Christ and Catholic values — we aspire to achieve our personal best in all we do," says Principal Sarah Gass, quoting the school's Values Statement. "We work to educate the whole person — body, mind, and spirit, and I think our faculty and staff do a good job of that.

"Althoff is a place where we can talk about our faith and help the students grow as people so that when they go on to college or to get jobs, they are able to make lifelong choices that serve them well and honor Christ," Dr. Gass adds.

All of this occurs as successfully

as it does because not only are the faculty and staff at Althoff dedicated to the success of the students, but the greater Catholic community of Belleville is also invested in the success of Althoff students.

"Althoff has such a great community of supporters," Dr. Gass says. "From parents and grandparents to alumni and others within the Catholic community, we have an incredible community of support."

Fr. Godfrey echoes Dr. Gass' sentiments, noting that since Althoff's inception in 1964, many of our parishioners have supported its mission.

"Many people over the past 175 years have graduated from Cathedral Grade School or Notre Dame Academy and have continued their Catholic education either at Cathedral High School or the Academy of Notre Dame, or more recently after 1964,



at Althoff Catholic High School," Fr. Godfrey says. "Many of our parishioners support Althoff as alumni or parents of alumni.

"As a diocesan high school, Althoff Catholic serves the Church's mission of building the Kingdom, just as the Cathedral does," he adds. "Althoff Catholic and the Cathedral enjoy a happy relationship of supporting that mission together, especially here in the city."

The students themselves are a testament to that!

"The students here at Althoff are just wonderful," Dr. Gass says. "They



ALTHOFF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: *Relationship Meet Academia*

are just great kids! They support one another so well. They come together and unite to build spirit within the school, as well as to serve the community through senior service projects and more!”

As Dr. Gass raves about the students and staff at Althoff, you can feel her love for them. Indeed, Althoff is a special community wherein academics are refined and Christ is glorified year after year.

“We are a mission-driven school, and everyone here believes in our mission,” Dr. Gass says.

That mission is to form faithful disciples throughout their high school years, and as Fr. Godfrey explains, that formation is paramount for us as Catholics.

“Formation in faith is part of



the Christian disciple’s entire life,” he says. “High school academics are important as they prepare young people for what they choose next in life. But faith formation is also exceptionally crucial for the disciple. Catholic education is based on a mission of genuine holiness; daily saint-making. It is sustained by Gospel witness as teachers become

models of faith for their students. That is what I long for in all of our Catholic schools.”

That is what you find at Althoff — a united community of students, staff, and administration, sustained by community support, and fueled by the mission to educate young people through the Catholic tradition while bringing glory to God!

For more information about Althoff Catholic School, visit althoffcatholic.org

“As a diocesan high school, Althoff Catholic serves the Church’s mission of building the Kingdom, just as the Cathedral does. Althoff Catholic and the Cathedral enjoy a happy relationship of supporting that mission together, especially here in the city.” — Fr. Godfrey



Pentecost:

A Lesson in Stewardship and Discipleship

Celebrated 50 days after Easter, Pentecost holds immense significance in the Catholic Church. It marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and Mary, empowering them to spread the Gospel. This event is not only a cornerstone of the Church's liturgical calendar but also a powerful lesson in stewardship and discipleship.

Pentecost, often referred to as the “birthday of the Church,” underscores the central role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Catholic. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God, just as all our talents, time, and resources are. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and Mary reminds Catholics that their own lives should be characterized by the openness to receive and share the gifts God has bestowed upon them.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS:

One of the primary messages of Pentecost is the universal mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in languages they did not know, allowing them to communicate with people from various backgrounds. This moment teaches Catholics that the call to discipleship and stewardship is not exclusive but extends to all people. Catholics are called to be good stewards of the Good News, sharing it generously and inclusively with others, just as the apostles did.

BEING EMPOWERED FOR SERVICE:

Pentecost is a reminder that the Holy Spirit empowers individuals for service. The apostles, who were once fearful and uncertain, were transformed into bold witnesses of Christ's teachings. This transformation illustrates the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and how it equips Catholics for service to the Church and the world. Stewardship, in this context, entails using one's talents, time, and treasure to serve others and advance the mission of the Church.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY:

The diverse crowd present at the first Pentecost, representing various nations and languages, highlights the theme of unity in diversity. Catholics are called to embrace and celebrate the diversity of God's creation while recognizing the common bond of faith. This is a vital aspect of stewardship — respecting the unique talents and backgrounds of each individual within the faith community and utilizing these differences to build a stronger, more vibrant Church.

BEING RESPONSIVE TO GOD'S CALL:

Pentecost serves as a reminder of the apostles' responsiveness to God's call. They were willing to leave behind their old lives, filled with uncertainty and fear, and accept the mission to spread the Gospel. This act of responding to God's call is fundamental to discipleship, which encompasses a willingness to be generous with one's time, talents, and treasure in service to God and others.

Pentecost is a pivotal moment in the Catholic Church's history, and its significance extends beyond the historical event. It is a lesson in stewardship and discipleship, emphasizing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the call to share the Good News, the empowerment for service, unity in diversity, and the responsive nature of discipleship. Catholics are reminded that, like the apostles, they are called to be good stewards of the gifts and blessings they have received, using them to serve and enrich the Church and the broader community. Pentecost serves as an annual reminder that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and empower Catholics on their journey of faith and stewardship.

An Ode to Notre Dame Academy

The grand old lady stands straight and tall. She is weary with years, but so strong with work done well. She has used all her gifts, daily, devotedly. But in her eye's reflection, one can see the end of the line. Her well-coiffed hair rests in a stately manner atop her head, demonstrating an amazing care she's always shown to others. Gently pursed lips exude humble but magnificent knowledge so readily shared over so many years. She is a stalwart figure, but always caring. Her hands are worn from loving gently so many young students. And they have known the coaxing support from her guiding nudge, calling them to something more than they could imagine. She is not weary but well-weathered. She is our lady, Notre Dame.

For a century and three-quarters, she stood in the shadows, west or east of the church tower, banged with bells governing the day and calling the innocent to worship. On that dark day in 1884, fire threatened her soul with death and damage, her heart burdened forever after with grief and sorrow. But she had more students to mold. A mortal wound did not, in fact, bring death to her, but grit and determination that marked her character forevermore. Knocked down like the Sisters and children who died, unlike them, she found her confident stride again, walking forward

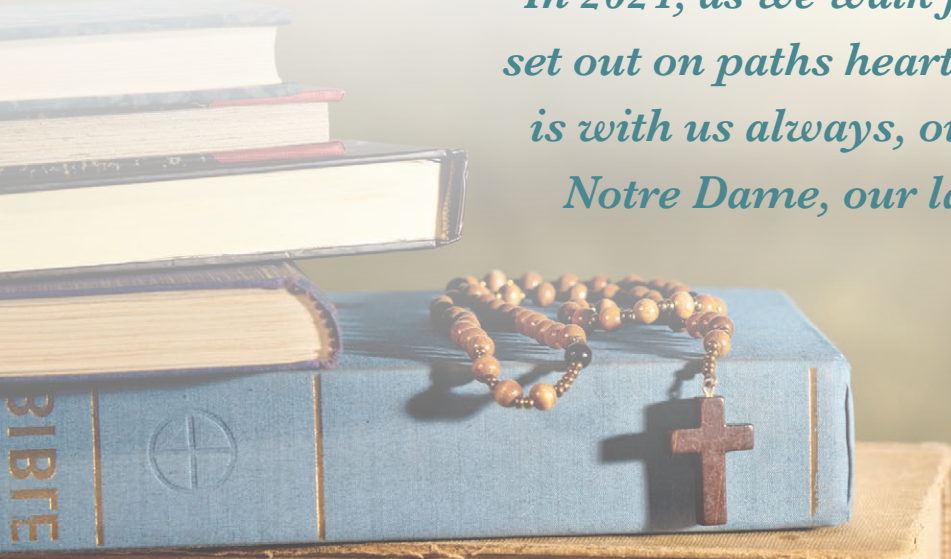
with courage. Just as before, she was our lady, Notre Dame.

As she stood so grand, tested by fire and strong with purpose, they came one after another to find her wisdom and seek her care. And she taught them the facts, multiplication tables and spelling words, charity and justice, and divine love, and the beauty of caring for one another deeply, as brothers and sisters. She taught them the certainty of science and the mystery of God's love, the tiny realities of molecules, and the greatness of the universe of God's imagination. She taught them the crusade of every human heart, to know the Lord. She fed them when hungry and fed them with heaven. They played on her grounds and giggled with all sorts of glee. And she gathered them into her ample arms, comforted them in sorrow, applauded their accomplishments. She was good to them. Because she was our lady, Notre Dame.

Moved a block-and-a-half in 1957, newly clad with blond bricks and far more room, more students sought wisdom within her walls. A city of small ones gathered daily within, the heart of the city, home base for all when Catholics drew near. Beautifully renewed yet old and wise, she knew her place: a beacon of hope and security for many hundreds each year. Alongside great women veiled and named as she would be, still others joined ranks to carry on her love. And one by one, they understood their role: to

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In 2024, as we walk forth from good grace, we set out on paths hearts heavy with grief. But she is with us always, our hope and our strength, Notre Dame, our lady, our call to be great.





CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

200 W Harrison St • Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 234-1166 • cathedralbelle.org



An Ode to Notre Dame Academy *continued from page 7*

direct these children to the Lord, their Home. And brilliant and caring and kind adults all, they led each one forward to know life's true goal. He stood in the distance, in the church up the hill, but He also stood among them in all that they did. They found a sure way to the One who set free: she was, as before, our lady, Notre Dame.

And now at long last, the old lady's eyes have grown dim with age. Nonetheless, her vision is clear: Christian saints entering and leaving her embrace. She's done her work daily and given all she's had; she's known tragedy and victory and now her end. But our lady is strong, here through it all, and although her mission is transferred, she stands straight and tall. Our lady, our mother, Cathedral Grade School and Notre Dame Academy, lives on in us all, sent out on mission, with all that we've learned. Whether a teacher, a student, a principal, or a friend, we're better today because we've loved as she did. A building is all that the grand

old lady is, some might say, but really a family of faith, Crusaders and Saints, and sinners striving always for glory. While it seems to be the end for our lady, Notre Dame, her best lessons and learnings will go forward again. We carry her gracious welcome in our hearts and in our souls, and we live our lives always trusting in the right way to go. In 2024, as we walk forth from good grace, we set out on paths hearts heavy with grief. But she is with us always, our hope and our strength, Notre Dame, our lady, our call to be great.

**Institute of the Immaculate Conception
Cathedral Grade School
Notre Dame Academy
1847-2024**

- Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB

MASS TIMES

*Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays: Monday-Wednesday & Friday 6:45 a.m., Thursday School Mass 8:15 a.m.*

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. | Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.