

OUR Church of LADY OF VICTORY

Dear fellow parishioners,

Alleluia He is Risen! One of the best proofs of the Lord's Resurrection we can offer to the world is the living faith of the Christian Community. And our faith in the Risen Lord calls us into unity and love for one another.

The Lutheran and Catholic Christians of our area have another "study opportunity" to grow in our unity and understanding of one another, coming up very soon. Starting on April 26, we will be offering a 4-week adult study group to continue the dialogue started this fall. The new study group will use the book *One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ* as a discussion guide. The essays in this booklet are the product of an intense collaborative process by six gifted scholars and pastoral leaders, three Lutheran and three Catholic.

The study group will meet on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00p.m. April 26-May 17, with locations rotating between Augustana Lutheran Church and Our Lady of Victory. You can sign up and pick up a book at the church office!

The Easter Season is also a beautiful time to celebrate **First Communions** and **Confirmation**: the faith of our children and youth offer more new life for the Church and the world. Please keep them and their families in your prayers that their encounter with Jesus in Holy Communion, and with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation will give them lasting joy.

And again **WELCOME** to the new and newly returned members of our Catholic Church received at the Easter Vigil. Their spiritual journey continues now as members of Our Lady of Victory and we welcome the gifts they bring to our community of faith. I hope we always find ways to let new members know we are glad that they are among us!

May the Risen Lord fill your hearts with joy, hope and peace throughout the Easter Season.

Fr. Alan

Nurturing connections: OLV Church, others go on missionary trip to Peru

From *Fergus Falls Journal* - By Kaley Sievert
Published 11:36 am Wednesday, March 21, 2018

A mission to create meaningful connections and positive change rounded its third year. On Jan. 21, members of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church and others traveled to Chimbote, Peru, and returned Feb. 2. There is already talk of returning.

Among the 17 individuals who traveled to Peru were Randy Fischer, operations director of Ringdahl Ambulance and works for Stevens County Ambulance in Morris; Mayme Hofland, financial director/faith formations at OLV Church; Dell Van Voorhis, with Otter Tail Power for 35 years and has been retired; and of course, Father Alan Wielinski.

This trip was made possible with the relationship OLV has with a Chimbote priest, Father Lucho.

"Father Lucho and Father Alan became friends while Father Alan was down in Morris at Assumption Catholic Church. ... Father Lucho was coming here, because he was undergoing medical treatments and medical care in Mayo," Fischer said. "We started the mission out helping the parishes we have connections within Chimbote [through Father Lucho]."

The mission has revolved around a lot of relationship building and connecting with the people according to Fischer. He said OLV is there to share their faith while

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making home visits and seeing where and how the people of Chimbote live.

“We are getting engaged in their culture and we live with host families, eat with them in their homes and work with the parish,” Fischer said.

Hofland said the connections made are beyond amazing and living with the families is a great opportunity to bond and understand the way of life in Chimbote. Some groups with the OLV mission were staying in homes with dirt floors, had no access to hot water and showered with buckets of water.

While staying in Chimbote, Hofland said the mission did several things to benefit the community and the parish. They ran English classes for all ages — from young children to adults, made home visits with baskets of food and supplies. OLV missionaries also helped individuals financially with health care situations, paying for the medical and living expenses while they are in the hospital.

“In particular, there was a six-month baby boy that will have at least six surgeries and has some major diagnoses,” Hofland said. Beyond the parameters of the original mission, Fischer wants to help Chimbote further with his connections in the medical field. The mission created



This is one example of the living conditions some families live in in Chimbote, Peru. OLV Church members and others went to Chimbote on a missionary trip recently to create connections and help those in need.

connections with a local women’s hospital and another hospital next to Father Lucho’s new parish.

“My purpose is to maybe in the future to continue to establish connections and assist in supporting and bringing medical personnel from our ambulance companies down there to gain experience, to gain perspective and to see what we can do to help whether that be teaching or providing [medical] care,” Fischer said. While this trip was the third year Hofland and Fischer went to Chimbote, it was the first year Van Voorhis went with his wife. The mission was just something they wanted to experience and Van Voorhis knew Father Lucho from a home visit.

“Father Lucho is a great person and he talking about his parish so we went along with 17 others to meet the



Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church members and other individuals traveled to Chimbote, Peru for a missionary trip. For some, it was their third trip there, helping provide financial help for medical situations, teaching English to various ages and providing food and supplies to families in need.



father down there,” Van Voorhis said. “We saw the people in their culture and their standard of living is a lot different than what we are used to but they had a deep personal faith so my wife and I came home really appreciating how blessed we are to have what we have and it deepened our faith for having done that.”

Despite their hardships, Fischer was amazed by the joy that was visible in many of the people he met in Chimbote, Peru. They have so little to what families have in the U.S. and Fischer said seeing this difference helped him gain perspective.

“You gain perspective on what is needed and what is necessary in life and you don’t need to have all of these things to be happy because they are happy and while they have some things, they have many needs as well,” Fischer said.

Hofland has gone to Chimbote, Peru every year with her youngest child and they feel it’s the hands-on experience in creating change that keeps drawing them back. Hofland takes comfort in knowing that 100 percent of the proceeds she and her family bring to Chimbote, go to the people of Peru.

“Just being able to know that and watch and see the difference it makes as you go from year to year gives you that understanding of mission work and how important it is,” Hofland said.

According to her husband, who has also visited Chimbote, the honesty of the people there is another reason they keep going back.

“One thing that he notices in Peru is the honesty of the people and their willingness to help us and help others in

their country,” Hofland said. “It surprised us the first trip down there.”

Van Voorhis saw this honesty in the genuine concern his host family had for him and his wife while staying at their home. The family took a vacation so they could be available for Van Voorhis and his wife any time they needed them.

“They did everything they could to make us feel welcome and they certainly achieved that,” Van Voorhis said. “We felt welcomed and loved while there.”

The generosity went beyond sharing their homes to the OLV missionaries. Fischer said even while the host families were struggling for basic necessities, they shared everything they had. They shared not from their excess but from what they needed themselves. That is why Fischer goes back to Chimbote every year. He wants to continue that culture of honest generosity.

“We are all called to serve and share what we have been given and blessed with,” Fischer said. “There is nothing special about me or about any of us, but in a way, there is, because we can maybe impact a life, maybe bring a smile to their faces, give a hug they needed and maybe bring needs or resources to those in need.”

For anyone interested in future mission trips to Chimbote, Peru, please contact Mayme Hofland at the OLV Church at 218-736-2429 ext.11.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS
TO SHARE PLEASE EMAIL**

rhondaantrim@gmail.com



NEW MEMBERS OF OLV



Paul and Barb Beyer

Barb and Paul were members of OLV over 20 years ago before they moved to Battle Lake. Now that they have moved back to Fergus Falls, they are coming back to OLV, too. They own Beyer Body Shop and have recently retired as their son, Mike, took over the business.

They have 5 children, 2 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren (the fifth is on the way).



Benjamin and Kelsey Brause

Kelsey grew up going to OLV and she and her husband got married here in the fall of 2016. They just had a little boy, Carson, in February. Kelsey works for Gate City Bank and Ben is a farmer.



Craig and Kristine LaVoi

Craig and Kristine were looking for a community church where they could feel welcomed and comfortable. They were impressed by our priest and by the music. They are also looking for a good school for their children.

Craig grew up in Mahnomen and attended St. Michael’s school. His mother still teaches there. Kristine grew up in a strong Catholic household. She worked for a year at St. Mary’s in Breckenridge teaching second grade. Craig works for Peterson Farms Seed and Kristine is a teacher in Underwood.

They have two boys. Matthew is 2½ and Logan was born at the end of February.



The Encounter

All roads lead to Rome. Does this sound cheesy? Too “Catholic” or cliché? For many people this may be the case. For me, however, it couldn’t be truer! This past January, I had the unique experience of traveling with my mom, Jean Connelly, for two weeks in Rome. We visited many historical sites, attended Mass at the Vatican, and encountered many local people who live and work in Italy. In the Middle Ages and onward, all major roadways radiated out from the heart of the Roman Empire. No matter where you were or how far you had to travel, you’d find your way to Rome, the eternal city. Our travels proved this to be true.

How was Rome? Well that’s a loaded question. Not because you asked it but because it is always difficult to explain one’s vacation in a manner that does justice for others to envision. The churches were beautiful ... as in breathtakingly beautiful. The churches I had seen in portraits before suddenly came to life as I ventured inside them. The experiences were profound. Imagine standing before the great Caravaggio paintings which depicted Jesus calling Saint Matthew to follow Him. The sensation I felt as I knelt at the tomb of Saint John Paul II as I prayed alongside my mother was astonishing. We spent an entire day simply walking miles upon miles on wandering feet as we traversed the paths from one church to another as we partook in a pilgrimage which outlined the same trail that many saints had walked before.

Yet all of this, as great and beautiful as it was, was nothing in comparison to the encounters we had with local people. I was able to experience a handful of encounters which made me feel as if I had been sitting with Jesus. We are told time and again at church and in the Bible that Jesus is in the heart of every person we meet. I must admit, many times I find myself thinking that is not the case. I feel as though He may be hiding. Sometimes, I have to really search in order for me to see Jesus in another person. Our time in Rome changed this for me. I honestly felt as if the blinders had been removed from our eyes. During our two weeks of travel, it became easier to see Christ in the other.



Cityscape of Rome from the Roman Forum.

One particular bus ride opened my eyes. After an hour long wait, our bus finally pulled to a stop so we could board. We climbed up the steps and walked through a crowd of people as we found our way to the back of the bus. My seat found me sitting uncomfortably against a rail with my back to the window. Sitting across from me was an old man. I watched the old man grimace as the bus lurched forward. It seemed as if he twinged in pain as we went over a bump. With each stop, jerk, and turn his pain became more and more evident. He looked up at the sky with his bright blue eyes and made the sign of the cross as we passed a church. I couldn’t look away. There was something in this man that I couldn’t step back from. A few minutes passed and the old man turned and smiled a simple, genuine smile as he sensed me watching him. He shrugged and spoke a few words in Italian. I nodded and smiled back ... not knowing what he said but knowing that he hurt. This exchange continued throughout our trip. I turned to my mom to see if she had anything I could give this man. I wanted him to know I could sense his pain and wanted to help him feel better. She gave me her personal rosary, the rosary I know she has prayed countless prayers on. The love I felt as I placed the rosary into the old man’s hand was overwhelming! All I could do was smile as I encouraged him to take it. He reached out with his warm, wrinkled hand and held onto mine. With one hand in his I put the other on his shoulder and held him. For a brief moment, time seemed to stop. It was as if I’d known and loved this man my entire life. Our trip was soon to come to an end. Before the old man got off the bus, he found a



Beautiful ornate side chapel in one of the many, many churches in Rome.



Templar Knights D'Italia - protectors of the Catholic Church inside the Church of the Apostles.



St Francis Basilica, Assisi

way to overcome our language barrier. Reaching into his coat he pulled out two holy cards of the holy family. With a smile on his face, a look of trust in his eyes, and a sense of joy which radiated from his touch, he handed one card to me and the other to my mom. Then he went about his way as he hobbled to the front of the bus so he could leave. As he got off the bus with his son, he turned around very deliberately and found me looking at him from my seat at the back of the bus. Time stopped once again as he touched his heart and blew me a kiss. I quickly did the same. For that brief moment, I felt as though that kiss connected both of us to Jesus. The old man stood at the curb as our bus pulled away. He smiled this most knowing smile until I couldn't see him anymore. His smile seemed to say "Until we meet again"!

This encounter was much more than me simply having an exchange with an old man. I could honestly sense Christ living in him. The old man's suffering was in a sense the cross which he must carry as part of aging. I was able to be part of this old man's journey of faith. I believe I truly held Jesus in my arms as I held that beautiful old man.

I went to Rome with the expectation of being a tourist and experiencing the vast history of the Church, to hopefully get a close encounter with the pope, and to gain a greater sense of my own Catholic faith. I found this true as a young seminarian gave us a tour of Saint Peter's Basilica. The hospitality of the people was incredible. We even came within about five feet of the pope as he walked by us during Mass. We encountered Christ in the Eucharist

and as we prayed at the tombs of beloved saints. As special as these memories were, the times where we were able to sit alongside others were the most special. These were the moments - when we heard Christ in prayer and encountered Him in the other - that will stick with us for a lifetime. All roads may lead to Rome, but every encounter leads to Christ.



White tile marks the spot where John Paul II was shot at in front of St Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Ministry Leaders Gather



Saturday, March 10, the OLV Ministry Leaders enjoyed a morning brunch served by the OLV Stewardship Committee. This special treat for Ministry Leaders was to thank them for their leadership and commitment to the good works of Our Lady of Victory and to plan for the future. Each year each member of the OLV family is invited to share their personal gifts of time, talent and treasure. This information is collected from parishioner mailings and masses during the October Commitment Sunday. The information is sorted and compiled and then shared with Ministry Leaders. Parishioner preferences for church ministries include involvement in the mass (as a server, greeter, usher or lector), as a musician (for the choir or special celebrations), church environment (cleaning, watering plants or decorating the church), welcoming new parishioners, Faith Formation teacher, quilter and the list goes on....

The brunch was the perfect setting to share with Ministry Leaders their new lists of interested church ministers and to introduce how our ACS Access software will be used to manage Ministry databases. The OLV family is interesting and diverse in its talents, and the ACS Access software will help to organize and support the efforts of Ministry Leaders.

The OLV Stewardship Committee introduced the old, new and consistent message of being called by Jesus "to come and follow me" to the Ministry Leaders. The message was clear. In the coming year we will all be asked "Who are you following?". This message is an invitation to recognize and receive God's gifts and to share these gifts with love of God and love of neighbor.

The OLV Ministry Leaders will be contacting parishioners who have shared an interest in one of the many church ministries. When they contact you, please answer the call. If you missed Commitment Sunday or have a newfound interest in one of the many ministries at



OLV, call the Church Office at 736-2429 and they will guide you to your Ministry Leader.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the same benefit."

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7



RCIA Service Projects

Class of RCIA 2018



Bradon James Anderson

Sponsor: Otis and Susan Anderson

Cody Cole Leonard Lehmann

Sponsor: Hannah Lehmann

Cristina Sharon Ehlers

Sponsor: Randy Zens

Karla Breamassa Ehlers

Sponsor: Charleen Zens

Kimberly Dee Styba

Sponsor: Greg Styba

Kirk Neil Ehlers

Sponsor: Richard Jennen

Linda Marie Kohls

Sponsor: Louis Stetz

Neil Carlos Ehlers

Sponsor: Randy Zens

Tiana Leah Saenger

Sponsor: Jennifer McGraw

Called and Gifted Workshop held at OLV

On February 24, 2018, 132 people participated in a Called and Gifted Workshop held at Our Lady of Victory's Fellowship Hall. Included among these participants were parishioners and pastors from OLV, St. Henry's in Perham, and other area churches, including a priest and his parish staff from West Fargo. The presenters, Jona Winkelman and Patrick Conley, are trained by the Catherine of Siena Institute. St. Catherine once said, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." The purpose of this day long workshop was to discover more about who God meant each of us to be, by exploring our gifts from God.

In First Corinthians Chapter 12, St. Paul writes that each one of us has been given something from the Holy Spirit for the common good. Those spiritual gifts are known as CHARISMS (pronounced like the word CARE-ism). According to our Catholic Catechism, a charism, whether extraordinary or ordinary, is to be used in charity or service to build up the Church. The difference between a charism/spiritual gift and a natural talent is that talents are typically in-born or inherited, but charisms are given to us by the Holy Spirit in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Charisms are always focused outward rather than simply for one's own satisfaction or reward. Sometimes when practicing a charism, the person feels a sense of knowing that the outcome was beyond him, and instead was enhanced or empowered by God.

At this workshop, participants took the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Through a self-scoring method, people were encouraged to circle their top six results. Much instruction about each charism followed, including information about a saint who exemplified each charism in his life on earth. In order to explore one's own results further, participants could choose to sign up for an interview to take place at a later date in the method of a phone interview with someone from the Catherine of Siena Institute, or in person when trained interviewers come to Fergus Falls from the Little Falls area. The three basic "signs" that a charism is present over time are as follows:

- The effectiveness (such as for the charism of teaching, do people learn from you?)
- Your experience (God wants the charism to bring you joy and satisfaction; it is not to be a penance!),
- Response or affirmation from others (for example, a sign you have the charism of encouragement might include being told by others that they feel comforted and more hopeful after interaction with you).

Thanks especially to Diane and Jeff Aschnewitz of OLV, and Deacon Randy Altstadt of St. Henry's, the chair people whose gifts benefitted us all in bringing this workshop to so many of us.

Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

207 North Vine Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 8:30 a.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory School (K-6th grade)
Learning Ladder Preschool (3-5 year olds, full and half day)
218/736-6661
www.ffolvschool.org

Reflections of an Old Man Letting Go

Some of you may have noticed that my “Reflections” didn’t appear in the last issue of the *Newsletter*. The reason is that I have undergone three major medical procedures and one minor one over the past 12 months. My recoveries, and the preoccupation with returning to a nearly normal life, made concentrating on much else all but impossible. Quite a change for an 84-year-old guy who spent 16 of his 18 winters in Arizona playing tennis three times a week, golf three times a week, and swimming nearly every day.

So, am I asking you to feel sorry for me? *Quite the contrary*. I want to share with you what I’ve learned from the experience. First is an even increased appreciation for a wife of 59 years who is more concerned with my physical problems than her own, and four sons who care deeply.

Second is a first-hand understanding of how quickly one can change from a perfectly healthy, active person to one trying to achieve some level of past abilities.

Third is a reminder of how little power I have over some aspects of my life. I freely admit to feeling more than a touch of trepidation upon hearing the doctor say (as many of you also have heard), “There are always dangers inherent in any surgery,” and mentioning excessive bleeding, severe trauma, clotting, infection and the possible negative effects of anesthesia.

But here’s the important thing. Shortly before they laid me on the table and put the mask on my face (meaning they were ready to go), I found myself saying what I had hoped I would say when I first got the bad news about the serious blockage in my leg: “God, you’ve given me a great life, and I still love it. But for the next hour or so, I leave everything up to you.” *The fear went away!*

Four times, now, I’ve said the same prayer, and four times He’s granted me more time. That, of course, will not always be the case. But until that time comes, I’ll do my best to use the time He’s given me well. I’ve learned to let go and let God.

Lee Krogh

www.ffolvchurch.org

Weekend Mass: *Saturday*, 4:30 p.m. Vigil | *Sunday*, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass: *Tuesday*, 12:05 p.m. | *Thursday & Friday*, 9:00 a.m.

Confession: *Thursday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Friday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Saturday*, 3:30 p.m.