

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

October/November 2018

Dear fellow parishioners,

There are two words on my mind that are cousins to each other and sometimes thought to have identical meanings. The words are “tithing” and “stewardship.” I would say that “stewardship” is the word that has a richer, broader, and perhaps...“friendlier” meaning, while “tithing” refers more narrowly to the Biblical concept of giving 10% of your income or produce to the Church and charity.

There are those who choose to tithe, those who strive towards that 10% goal, and in fact those who are quite capable and even exceed that mark. Wherever you are on that spectrum, thank you and God bless you for all your efforts to give generously back to God, in gratitude for all He has given you.

As I mentioned, “stewardship” is an even richer concept, and it is what we have especially chosen to promote here at Our Lady of Victory. While acknowledging the Biblical concept and spiritual importance of tithing, stewardship moves us beyond to consider how am I giving my very **SELF** back to God.

The three components of Stewardship are usually identified as Time, Talent and Treasure. When we invest our precious time into the building up of community and relationships, and share our God given talents to help build our parish and God’s reign, plus offer our treasure....that’s a pretty strong commitment of “self”!

As we embark on this fall’s Stewardship Renewal we will focus on the theme “**Who are you following?**” Implied is that the word “stewardship” is really another name for “discipleship.” Disciples are those who seek to follow the Lord Jesus who calls us “**to lose yourself in order to find yourself.**” What a great and life-giving “recipe” the concepts of stewardship give us that we might, in a very practical way, fulfill those words of Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Alan

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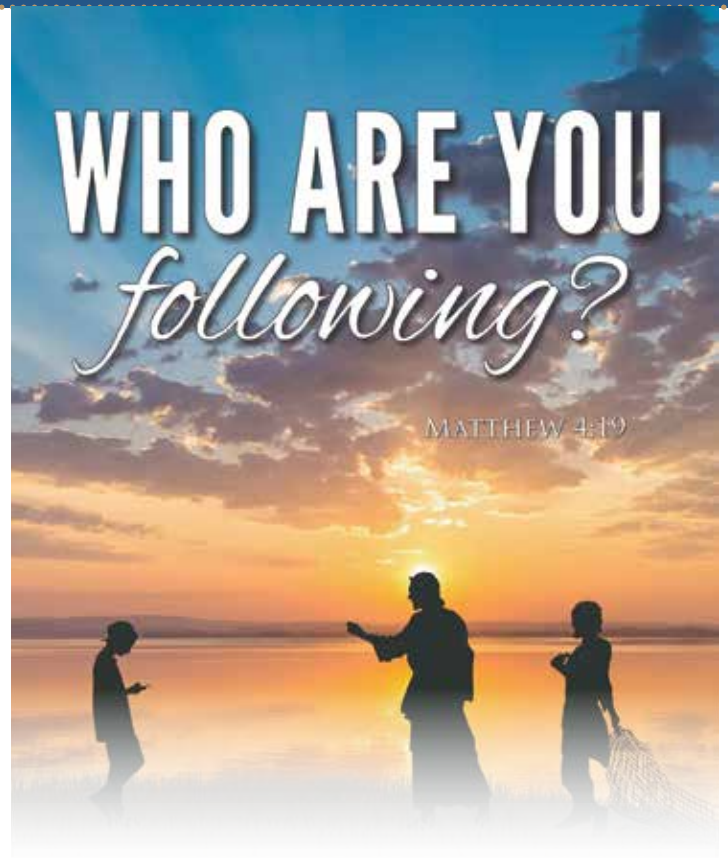
Commitment Sunday is October 7th

Christian disciples respond to Christ's call, follow Jesus and shape their lives in imitation of Christ. This year's stewardship message incorporates both an old, new, and consistent message: of being called by Jesus to "come and follow me..." Our poster unites a modern silhouette of a young man on his cell phone, and familiar silhouette of Saint Peter with his fishing nets. One has chosen to follow Jesus; the other is in the midst of distraction and decision.

This is an old, new, yet consistent message. Whether it is a career in the fishing industry or whether it is modern responsibilities and/or distractions, we are faced with the question: who are you following? Peter responded that he was following Jesus. What is our response? Stewardship is gratefully recognizing and receiving this invitation to follow Jesus, then sharing our life with others. Just like Peter.

By the time you read this newsletter, you will have received the commitment packet in the mail. Consider the many ministry opportunities available, and mark on the commitment card how you would like to share your life with others this upcoming year. Place your card in the collection basket at Mass the weekend of October 6th and 7th for your commitments to be placed before the altar and blessed.

The weekend of September 29th and 30th we welcome a couple from our parish to give testimony of their stewardship journey. Don't be surprised if it sounds a lot like yours!



PREPARE US TO SERVE, O LORD

Father, we come together after a restful summer to once again take up your work to serve You and Your people. We thank you for the time we have had to be refreshed and renewed and made fit for service. Help us to hear your voice and to discern together our mission for this year. Help us to set all our goals, even our fundraising goals, based on the work to which we are being called. We ask that you prepare and equip us to do your will. Amen.

2018 OLV FALL FESTIVAL WAS A SUCCESS



NANCY JOHNSON: WINNER OF THE GRAND PRIZE CAR DURING FALL FESTIVAL

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Bible Study 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 23	St. Robert's 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	Cemetery Committee 4:00 p.m.		Stewardship 6:30 p.m.
	Social Concerns 5:30 p.m.	Oct. 25	Regional Gathering Ministry 6:00 p.m.
	Stephen Ministry 6:30 p.m.	Oct. 27	First Communion Class
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	RCIA 6:00 p.m.		10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Oct. 3, 10, 24	Faith Formation and Confirmation	Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26	Bible Study 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	Vocations Mass, Butler 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 6	Social Concerns 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25	Quilters 9:30 a.m.		Stephen Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Oct 4.	Parish Council,	Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27	RCIA 6:00 p.m.
	Finance Council Retreat 5:30 p.m.	Nov. 7, 14, 28	Faith Formation and Confirmation
Oct. 5, 26	Mothers' Group after 9:00 Mass	Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29	Quilters 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 6, 20	St. Joseph Men 8:00 a.m.	Nov. 9, 16, 30	Mothers' Group after 9:00 Mass
	WinGs 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 3, 17	St. Joseph Men 8:00 a.m.
Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28	Children's Liturgy of the Word		WinGs 9:00 a.m.
Oct. 9	K of C's 6:00 p.m.	Nov. 4, 11, 18	Children's Liturgy of the Word
	St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 8	Board of Ed 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Finance Council 5:30 p.m.		Catholic Daughters at the
Oct. 11	Flu Clinic 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Nov. 13	Museum 5:30 p.m.
	Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m.		K of C's 6:00 p.m.
	Board of Ed 5:30 p.m.	Nov. 14	St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 12-14	REC weekend	Nov. 17	Finance Council 5:30 p.m.
Oct 16	Stephen Ministry 6:30 p.m.		First Communion Class
Oct. 17	Women's Group 11:30 a.m.		10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
	Come and See	Nov. 18	Rite of Calling at 10:30 Mass
Oct. 18-19	MEA	Nov. 20	Stephen Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	NEO Supper at the Rectory	Nov. 21	Women's Group 11:30 a.m.
Oct. 21	National Catholic Daughters' Sunday	Nov. 27	St. Robert's 1:30 p.m.
			Stewardship 6:30 p.m.

A Moment and Few Words

I was helping to clean up after a Lenten fish fry, and happened to pass by Jeff. He paused to say “So, were you ever ... ?” It had been almost 15 years since I had walked out on the second night of his Confirmation class, but I knew right away what he was asking. Embarrassed, I could only say “No, I haven’t.” He smiled and said “Maybe we’ll have to work on that.”

I was baptized and raised in the Church - altar server, Catholic grade school, mom played the organ on Sundays, and all of that, but like many young people, I had disconnected from my faith. I still thought of myself as Catholic, but I really didn’t understand what that meant. For many years, I seldom thought about my faith.

Now I was married with two young children, and life’s priorities had begun to change. Military service and 24-hour shifts at work had given me some lonely times to think about what is important in life - family, friends, and faith. I was blessed with a beautiful and loving wife and two healthy and wonderful children; I had a close circle of friends; along with my wife, I had begun to attend Mass regularly and volunteer at church, but I longed to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

A short time after our exchange, Jeff came to me with an idea. How about I help him teach his Confirmation classes next year, and if I stayed the course, I could get Confirmed, too? I would have to do some serious studying, but this was an answer to my prayers. With the approval of the director of religious education, our pastor, and ultimately the bishop, I was allowed to help Jeff and subsequently received the sacrament of Confirmation. Afterwards, being the great example of living the faith that he is, Jeff kept me in the fold of religious education where I taught my own class for several more years.

In the end, this story isn’t about me. This story is about those who didn’t give up on me. Thanks, Jeff. And thanks be to God!

The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine on you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! ~Numbers 6:24-26 NABRE

By Craig Herbert



A Pilgrim's Journey to France

From August 1-9, 2018, I was blessed with a life changing travel experience by going on a Dynamic Catholic Pilgrimage to France. Over the course of this pilgrimage, we were in three major locations. In a series of three articles, I will focus on these locations through an emphasis on three women saints who I felt a close encounter with, due to the privilege of being in places where they lived. In this first of the series, I will write about what I learned and experienced in Lourdes, France, with the special inspiration provided through the life of a young heroine in our Church, Bernadette Soubirous.

St. Bernadette and Lourdes

Bernadette was born to a poor family and was illiterate. In 1858 at the age of 14, while out gathering firewood, Bernadette began seeing visions of our Blessed Mother Mary in a cave near the town of Lourdes. Bernadette did not know who/what she was seeing, though



On wall outside church named for her

she described the vision as a small young lady dressed in blue and white, who smiled at her, and made the sign of the cross holding a rosary. Bernadette, too, carried a rosary, and she fell to her knees to pray. Those who were with Bernadette could not see the vision, but Bernadette remained certain that it was real. However, because she



Mass at Grotto where Mary appeared to Bernadette

did not know what she was seeing, she referred to the vision as a “thing.” Bernadette did what the “thing” told her to do: go to the priest and tell him that people needed to do penance and that a church should be built at that site. The priest, likely questioning Bernadette’s sanity, told her to go home, adding that she did not even know the name of this vision. Bernadette kept returning to see the vision, despite much pressure to stop. The vision told Bernadette at one point to dig for water and wash her face in it. At the beginning this water was muddy, but the next day it was clear, and that spring continues to run with pure water today, and has been a source of many healing miracles, including healing a woman with a paralyzed arm at the time Mary was still appearing to Bernadette. During the sixteenth vision, Bernadette asked three times for the lady’s name. Mary replied, “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Bernadette practiced saying this over and over as she made her way back to the priest. It was a great surprise that illiterate Bernadette would know this, being that Pope Pius IX had just declared the dogma of Mary being the Immaculate Conception four years earlier. With that, Bernadette was believed, and the Bishop gave her protection. Then this young, faithful girl reminded them firmly that the lady wanted them to build that church!

And build a church they did, the remarkable Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Currently in Lourdes, along with this impressive basilica, there is a large area known as the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. Within that sanctuary area is the Grotto or cave where Mary appeared to Bernadette, and the flowing stream. The opportunity to touch the cool, damp walls of that cave and see the flowing water was so profound. At the Grotto, Masses are said in several languages: French, English, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and German. We had the privilege of attending an English mass there on a beautiful morning, concelebrated by many priests, with an informative homily about Bernadette by a bishop from the Diocese of Plymouth, England.

There is also a very large underground basilica, called the Basilica of St. Pius X, where we and many others participated in Eucharistic Adoration, with a beautiful choir and orchestra. While I did collect Lourdes water, I did not want to take a place in line to be submerged in the pools with the many who were seeking healing in many forms. Instead, my wandering ways led me to the Church of Saint Bernadette, where a healing/reconciliation service was going on with several participants wearing red berets. Some of those with red berets appeared to be profoundly disabled, and they were befriended and helped by others without obvious disabilities. Whatever the French priest

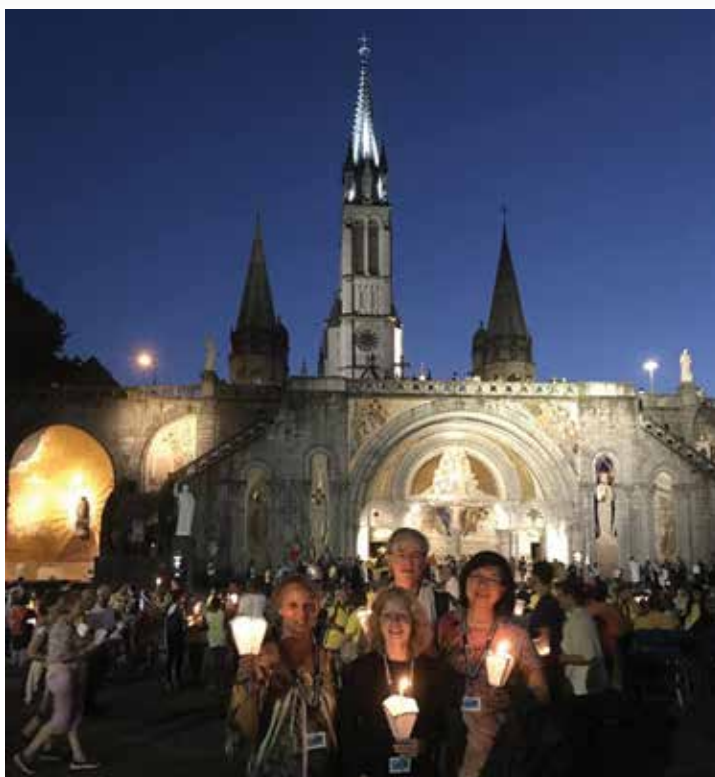
was saying to them brought many smiles, and I witnessed so much compassion all around. In fact, I learned that the name of the Red Beret group was “Friends,” or in French, “Compains.” I was very moved by simply sitting among them.

Finally, one of my most memorable experiences on this pilgrimage was participating in the Candlelight Rosary

Procession around the Lourdes Sanctuary, with thousands of others. We divided behind signs designating our native language, though as I stopped to take pictures with the Pyrenees Mountains in the background, I ended up at times in various language groups including Hispanic and Asian. The rhythm and cadence of our beautiful “Hail Mary” prayer made responding in English natural, no matter the language of the first part of this prayer. Saying rosary on the grounds where Our Blessed Mother Mary had appeared several times while holding a rosary made this experience so moving and significant. At times we would all together sing “Ave Maria,” and on that refrain would hold our lit candles high. At the beginning of the procession we were in daylight, but by the end the sky had turned dark, and the lit basilica and statue of Mary glowed beautifully. At the conclusion of the rosary, we were encouraged to offer each other a sign of peace, and it was a moment that felt like world peace was indeed possible.

A motto of Dynamic Catholic’s founder, Matthew Kelly, is to encourage us to become the best version of ourselves. Being on Pilgrimage, especially through my encounters with similarly motivated “pilgrims,” does indeed allow for growth toward that goal, and a closer relationship with God. In addition, with this trip to Lourdes, I’ve had a closer encounter with Mary and Bernadette. In the next newsletter, my focus will be on St. Theresa, the Little Flower of Lisieux.

By Deb Forstner



Candlelight Rosary Procession



French Priest visiting with "Compains"/Friends



OLV Funeral Committee Ministry Serves Families in Times of Need

Members of the Our Lady of Victory Funeral Committee Ministry are ready and willing to assist members of the parish who lose loved ones.

Their main responsibilities are to prepare and serve the lunch after the funeral service in the OLV fellowship hall.

“Our parish has been blessed with many people offering to help serve on the Funeral Committee Ministry,” says committee chairperson Meanie Ricks. “Serving the families in their time of need is something we all understand.”

Parish members are divided into 11 groups, with one or two members in each group calling for volunteers for a particular parish event. This also holds true when volunteers are needed for providing cakes for OLV funerals, on a rotating basis.

For a small funeral of close to 100 people, only six or seven Funeral Committee food preparers and servers are needed.

But for a funeral of 400 people, about 15 volunteers would be needed. The parish fellowship hall has a capacity of 250 people so there would be an overflow into the adjoining OLV school cafeteria.

The usual menu is scalloped potatoes and ham (cooked by Meanie herself with use of an electric roaster), cole slaw, buns, pickles, cake and coffee or water.

The family of the deceased, if it so chooses, can request ham and turkey sandwiches instead of the scalloped potatoes and ham.

Meanie gives special credit to OLV custodian Bob Budke who in advance of the funeral lunch sets up the needed tables and chairs. Volunteers then set the tables with placemats, napkins, silverware, cups, glasses, cream and sugar and salt and pepper.

“Volunteers come early to start preparing for the post funeral lunch,” adds Meanie. “Other volunteers then come to help with buns, cakes, serving of the meal and cleanup.”

It’s a labor of love for the volunteers who see this ministry, in addition to helping families in need, as strengthening their own religious faith.



Meanie Ricks, chairperson of the OLV Funeral Committee Ministry, prepares scalloped potatoes and ham for most of the parish funerals.

“Our parish community, and the Funeral Committee Ministry itself, is sincerely appreciative of all those willing to share in this ministry,” says Ricks. “Each person is blessed with a talent and we are so thankful to those who share their talents.”

Anyone willing to help with preparing and serving as part of this committee can contact Rosemary Griffin at the parish office at 218-736-2429 or Meanie at 218-589-8462.

Story and photo by Tom Hintgen



Reflections of an Old Man

Generosity

Leader: If God had given us only one day of life,

Congregation: He would have been generous.

Leader: If God had given us but one springtime, fall, summer or winter,

Congregation: He would have been generous.

Leader: If God had given us only one day of happiness and laughter,

Congregation: He would have been generous.



Thus, roughly paraphrased, began the Thanksgiving reflection at the end of Mass last year at my granddaughter Alida's parish in Mundelein, Illinois.

There was more to that litany of generous gifts, of course—much more. Things large and small. Things we recognize and things we sometimes fail to recognize in the everyday concerns of our daily lives. Things like one beautifully prepared meal, one true friend, and one useful talent. I've thought of a good many of them myself, and I'm sure you could list many that apply to you personally.

I've found myself thinking of that prayer often over the past year. Not only of the prayer, but of the enthusiasm with which the parishioners stated their responses. It was obvious that they—like me, were thoroughly convinced of the truth those words contained: that an all- powerful God, who needs nothing and no one, has not only given us life, but gifted us with a world full of incredibly beautiful things and persons to enrich it. Talk about generous!

I know I'll continue to think of that prayer for as many years as I have left, and especially on the occasion of one of my favorite holidays.

As the always welcome holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas approach I hope you'll accept my sincere prayer that God will continue to be as generous to you and your loved ones as He has been to me and mine!

Lee Krogh

September 15th began the first in a series of suppers at the rectory, sponsored by the New Evangelization Office. The evening was spent sharing our faith with each other. Volunteers from the NEO committee cooked and served the meal. It was a wonderful evening had by all.



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



Upcoming Events

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
OCTOBER 7TH

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.