

THE JOURNEY

Spring
2020

Our Lady of Victory Parish Newsletter

We are sent to love and serve, as we journey toward the kingdom.



MESSAGE FROM FR. ALAN

Dear fellow parishioners and friends, "God wins! He always wins!" This is the message of Christ's Easter Resurrection; He is risen as He said, Alleluia! God wins! But standing there at the foot of the cross on Good Friday...it would not have seemed so.

The Easter message offers us hope in this almost unbelievable, surreal time that we are in. The COVID 19 pandemic is one, long Good Friday. Our neighboring pastor, Father Jeff Ethen, has likened it to a 9-11 in slow motion. It may not seem so, but God will win again!

Each time we choose prayer over despair, God is winning! Each time we reach out to someone we love or someone we may not even know that well and offer a word of encouragement, instead of turning in on ourSELF, God is winning! For each person or family who, because of what we're going through, has found some new insight about what is really important in life, God is winning! In our deep longing for coming together again for the sacraments, for community, for worshipping and praising our eternal God, God is winning!

Other places have been hurting a lot more than we are thus far. Of course we pray that "this cup shall pass us by" as much as possible; we pray for the lowest numbers possible of sick and dying people here and everywhere. And we pray that everyone affected by this coronavirus in any way, may have the divine assistance they need in their particular circumstances.

We pray; we keep placing our trust in God; we turn and cry out to Him...in our every attempt to trust and believe, God is winning.

Through Baptism we share in Christ's victory over sin and death, and over all the suffering and evil in our world. We are reminded of that fact in the Mass of Christian Burial. Though it is always painful, the death of our loved ones does not have the last word. God wins because we share in Christ's resurrection; as Jesus rose on Easter Sunday, we will rise to eternal life.

Let's continue to celebrate Easter the best we can, asking God to truly fill us with Easter peace, Easter

hope and new life. I pray that we may gather in Church well before the end of the fifty day Easter season...the current date we are given by Bishop Kettler is not until after May 15.

We know that could be adjusted either way.... regardless of when, we will be so ready! Until then let's hang on to the promise of Easter, let's proclaim it in every way we can: "God wins! He always wins!"

In the Risen Lord,
Fr. Alan



REFLECTIONS ON PERU MISSION TRIP 2020

by John Schmidt

Pope Francis gave his bishops and priests a message "Go among the sheep. Smell the sheep." That also applies to us as God's people. We experienced this in Chimbote, Peru and we lived with a Peruvian family, we shared their food at their table. We slept in the beds they slept in, except the homes we were in were economically well above those we worked for. We attempted to communicate with them in their language.

Ours was a mission trip. The primary project was the home of a seriously ill middle aged mother with a child. We replaced an outside wall with thin plywood that was previously reeds. Aluminum sheets were placed over the kitchen and bedroom as a roof replacing the reeds. The bedroom sand floor was raked, smoothed and swept before placing a plastic tarp and covering it with artificial grass. The kitchen remained a sand floor. We put in a single small light in each of three rooms. A person may say we only helped one among the thousands of Chimbote's. To that one, it was the world, as we remembered the message of Jesus, at least we helped one.

One of the purposes of a mission trip is to "see the face of Christ in God's people." There is no better place to see this than in the faces of the children who were taught English. Classes started at 8:00 am and went to 1:00 pm for children of all ages. We could see the face of Christ among the many poor we came in contact with, a face that often was happier than we might see among our own who have much more.

We painted two rooms for the church catechetical center and spent many hours cleaning construction on the third floor addition and installing electric wiring, outlets, and lights.

Why Cusco, the Sacred Valley, and Manchu Picchu? Yes, we were more like tourists



as we stayed in Cusco, the center of the Inca Empire for well over 100 years. But it was a time to learn how ancient Incas cared for mother earth and understood agriculture in a microclimate. They were master builders building with stone without mortar for structures that survived earthquakes for hundreds of years. Their architectural skills designed buildings that could last over 500 years. Perhaps we should learn from them how to use our God-given talents to better serve all people for a longer period of time. Of course we needed to buy sweaters, scarves, mittens,

and other items made from Alpaca wool. At an altitude of 13,000 feet we were able to think clearly and walk slowly.

Now we are in a period of reflecting on our mission journey. A time to reflect on what we saw, what we learned. In this reflection we ask: "How do we see the face of Christ among the poor and troubled in our communities of Fergus Falls, Elizabeth, and Pelican Rapids?". And then, "How do we move to action in our concern for our brothers and sisters here at home?"

Mardi Gras Celebrated

Written by Deb Forstner; photos by Teresa Thompson

The evening of Tuesday February 25th in the OLV Fellowship Hall, the Stewardship Committee once again sponsored a Mardi Gras party. This party was free and open to all. Snacks, pizza, cupcakes, and a variety of beverages were served. There were also masks and other décor available for getting into the spirit and to use for photo opportunities, along with music by the Blue Note Combo.

Mardi Gras is a French phrase meaning "Fat Tuesday!". It is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of the Lenten Season leading up to Easter. During Lent, many Christians fast, and the name Fat Tuesday refers to the last day of eating richer foods before the leaner days of Lent begin.

The official colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold. Purple represents justice; green represents

faith; and gold represents power. It is a tradition that "King Cakes" with these colors are served at Mardi Gras time. Within the cake, fava beans or plastic babies were placed to symbolize baby Jesus. Today, the baby symbolizes luck and prosperity to whoever finds it in their cake (as long as they don't chip a tooth!). There is also a tradition that the person who finds a plastic baby is responsible for purchasing the cake for next year, or for throwing the next Mardi Gras party. In the colorful and delicious cupcakes at OLV, several plastic babies were found. In many cases, those who found them were rewarded by taking home extra pizza. Thank you to all the members of the Stewardship Committee for sponsoring this festive time.



On the afternoon of February 22nd, 2020, which was an unseasonably warm Saturday, members of Our Lady of Victory Parish helped out at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls as the Vet's played BINGO. This event was sponsored by OLV's Social Concerns Committee, and organized by committee member Kim Imdieke. Ten members of our parish were present. It was a fun and rewarding time.



Infant Baptism Preparation

By *Mammas H. Mammas, New Evangelization Office Coordinator*

The Baptism process begins when the parents contact our parish and schedule an appointment with me (Mammas at extension 13) in order to discuss their child's baptism. It is extremely important that the first contact families have with the Church is a positive and welcoming one as this could be the first time a family has contacted a church and may be anxious or even expecting rejection. The family should have things explained to them clearly and be treated as people who God loves and potential active members of the church. So, I try to guide them through the meaning of the sacrament and the process it involves.

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Since we believe that God shared our human nature in Jesus Christ, it is understandable that the Church believes that God still touches us through human words and material realities symbolizing and making present God's own actions. We believe that God takes each of us to himself in a unique way in the sacrament of Baptism through water and the words of Baptism.

Christians have used many metaphors and images to express what they believe happens to us in Baptism: rebirth; putting on Christ; becoming a child of God; being liberated from sin; dying with Christ; being incorporated in Christ's body, the Church; receiving the Holy Spirit. All these images are an attempt to express the Church's profound belief that through Baptism, one not only takes his or her first steps on the path that leads to God, but receives the beginnings of a real change in their personality.

When parents bring their child to be baptized, assuming they do so in faith, not only are they performing a wonderful act of love towards their child, but they are also committing themselves to work with God to prepare their child for his

or her eternal destiny – to be with God forever. To bring their child for baptism is to take on a very serious commitment. They must be determined to bring up the child as a Christian and a practicing member of the Church. This means providing a Christian education for the child, and first and foremost a Christian home in which, through teaching and example, the child will be able to experience Jesus' friendship in an atmosphere of Christian love. It also means nourishing the child's religious life throughout infancy and beyond, educating them in word and deed, and in particular supporting them as they progress to the other sacraments and become full members of Christ's Church.

On a practical level, parents receive instruction in preparation for their child's Baptism. The parents are asked to attend an evening of instruction which covers the theological or doctrinal understanding of the sacraments, the structure and meaning of the actual ritual, and details about the time of the ceremony. The parents receive several handouts that cover the materials and the details. Often,

the selection of Godparents has been made by the parents even before they call the parish office. Godparents are usually chosen with cultural, familial or friendship considerations in mind. The selection of Godparents is very important. We want to work with parents so that they can choose whoever they would like; however, it is essential that at least one Godparent is a practicing and devout Catholic. This is essential because the Godparents have a critical role and they have the important duty of assisting the parents in raising the children in the faith. This is especially important if something should happen to the parents and they are no longer able to see that their children are practicing the faith.

Both the options of a private baptism with only family present or baptism at the Sunday Mass are available. Baptism is an action of the whole church, and the benefit of having baptism at the Sunday Mass is the a greater number of people who are able to witness and participate in the baptism, and support the entire family in prayer.

Parish Life: "Our New Normal"

We are currently envisioning (per the guidelines given us by Bishop Kettler) that the church and parish office will remain closed through May 15. However you can pick up a bulletin, stop in for personal prayer or drop off an envelope each day 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Staff members are working both from our offices and home. You can leave a message for any parish staff member at the office, and Father Alan's emergency number is given there as well.

We will continue posting services and reflections and at our parish website www.ffolvchurch.org and the OLV parish Facebook. Thanks to all those who have been involved in this ministry! The bulletin is posted at the website. Check there occasionally too for any announcements.

The parish staff, assisted by some of our Eucharistic ministers to the homebound and our Stephen Ministers are keeping in touch with many of our parishioners through a phone network. If you would like to receive an occasional call to chat or visit a bit....and have not yet received one....please leave your name and number on the office voicemail. If you have any special needs, or intentions for us to pray for, please leave a message and we will do everything we can to help out!

Our school staff soldiers on providing distance-learning, as well as childcare and meal service at the school. Most of the teachers work from home. Parents and students are reporting this is challenging but rewarding! Governor Walz has said it is highly probable that school won't be in session again until the fall.

Father Lucho Palomino of Chimbote

By Deb Forstner

Many of us have been fortunate to know and quickly grow to love Father Lucho Palomino of Chimbote, Peru, who visits our parish at least once per year. Fr. Lucho also has welcomed people from Our Lady of Victory and other Minnesota parishes into his Peruvian church communities for marvelous mission trip experiences. Through this article, I am hoping all Journey readers can know more about Fr. Lucho's background, and the ministry gifts he brings to his people and to our Pelican Valley Catholic Community.

Fr. Lucho grew up in Huarmey, Peru. Huarmey is a coastal town located between Lima and Chimbote. He attended seminary and did mission work in the mountainous region of his country. He entered the priesthood on December 12, 1996 (the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe). Because he had loved living in the mountains, he asked his bishop if he could be assigned there.

Fr. Lucho and Fr. Alan met at an event at St. John's University in Colleeville in 1999. They became friends through helping each learn to improve in speaking each other's language, and in sponsoring "reverse" mission trips, where people from MN would learn from the beautiful spirituality and culture of visiting Peru. This began when Fr. Alan was pastor in Morris, MN, and therefore Fr. Lucho has many friends in that community as well.

Fr. Lucho was happy serving as a priest in the mountains. However, he was diagnosed with Leukemia in July 2014. He was transferred to the coastal city of Chimbote (population approximately 380,000). Because of his low immune system, his health does not allow him to live in high elevations due to altitude sickness. Around the time of his diagnosis, Fr. Alan happened to call to check on his friend. It was then facilitated through completing paperwork, etc. that Fr. Lucho became a patient at the Mayo Clinic starting in October 2014. Fr. Lucho and Fr. Alan learned from the pharmaceutical company on Christmas Eve 2014 that Fr. Lucho would receive his needed medicine at no cost. Fr. Lucho called that his gift from Baby Jesus. Fr. Lucho has had good check-ups at the Mayo for the past 5 years, so his cancer is under control. He continues to go to Lima, Peru for blood work, the results of which are shared with Mayo every three months.

When Fr. Lucho visits Minnesota, he fully immerses himself into our community, and does not even complain about the snow and the temperature. Indeed, he smiles and says he likes it! Some of the things he has done since coming back with this January's mission trip team are visiting and helping out in Morris, presiding at the Spanish Mass and hearing confessions at St. Leonard's in Pelican Rapids, and being presider at the Our Lady of Victory Catholic School Mass. It is clear when Fr. Lucho preaches, especially in his native language of Spanish in Pelican Rapids, that the people greatly enjoy his message and his engaging delivery. Fr. Lucho also spends a good deal of time with Fr. Bill Gamber when visiting Minnesota, as they have also become dear friends.

In 2019, I had the good fortune of seeing Fr. Lucho in action at his home parish in Chimbote: Parroquia de Sagrada Familia (Parish of the Holy Family). There, he is a gracious liturgical and ministerial leader, bringing the Bible and the mission of Christ to

life. He is a master at multi-tasking, meeting a variety of needs for his people, many of whom live in poverty.

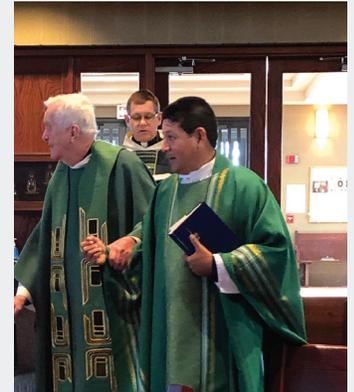
Fr. Lucho appreciates all prayers for him and his people. In particular at this time, he asks for prayers for his sixteen-year old niece Ariadna Palomino, who has cancer in her femur bone. She is now on her third round of chemo. As we thank God for Fr. Lucho and all that his good health has brought to us, let us pray for Ariadna, that she might also have a bright and hope-filled future.



Fr. Lucho and Fr. Bill, surrounded by children at Spanish Mass at St. Leonard's in Pelican Rapids



Fr. Lucho and Fr. Alan amigos for over 20 years



L-R Fr. Bill, Fr. Alan, and Fr. Lucho at the beginning of a weekday Mass



Fr. Lucho in Peru wearing his Vikings t-shirt

Catholic Daughters Sponsors Educational Contest

By Rhonda Antrim Petersen

The Catholic Daughters of American Educational Contest was held again this year. The themes which the students addressed for 2020 were: Blessed are the Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) and Living in Harmony with Others. The categories of this contest are essay, poetry, art, and computer art for Division I (grades 4 and 5); and essay, poetry, art, computer art, photography, and music for Division II (grades 6, 7, and 8). The list of winners follows, along with pictures from the awards ceremony. Thank you to Shirley Seyfried for coordinating this contest.



Education Contest Winners

2020 Lenten Fish Fry

By Rachel Tuel

2020

Division I Art

- First Place Braedyn Aschnewitz
- Second Place Reed Ehler
- Third Place Akira Bokkers

Division I Poetry

- First Place Adelyn Miley
- Second Place Alexis Thoma
- Third Place Elizabeth Klinnert

Division I Essay

- First Place Gavin Nordahl
- Second Place Maeve Cox
- Third Place Ali Bredenberg

Division I Computer Art

- First Place Daegyn Saenger
- 2nd Place Tie Elizabeth Klinnert
Ryanna Moen
- 3rd Place Tie Maeve Cox
Alexis Thoma

Division II Art

- First Place Drew Fischer
- Second Place Matthew Tuel
- Third Place Brook Zierden

Division II Poetry

- First Place Isabelle Holland
- Second Place Drew Fischer
- Third Place Brook Zierden

Division II Essay

- First Place Drew Fischer
- Second Place Matthew Tuel
- Third Place Isabelle Holland

Division II Computer Art

- First Place Isabelle Holland
- Second Place Alexa Anderson

Third Place Brook Zierden

Division II Music

First Place Isabelle Holland

Division II Photography

- First Place Drew Fischer
- Second Place Anna Leopold
- Third Place Isabelle Holland



With 7 years' experience under their belts as leaders of the OLV Lenten fish fries, BJ Waasdorp and Jan Lindblm felt it was time to retire. After much asking, begging and soul-searching, two fearless leaders stepped up to the task: Steve King and Pat Tuel. Lucky for them, they had a great staff of chairpeople to help through their first year at the helm. The OLV Lenten fish fries have always been an event that has been anticipated, not only by parish members, but also by members of the Fergus Falls community and surrounding area. As in the past, it was great to see such an outpouring of support for the event from OLV parish members, other area churches and community members. Steve and Pat were just getting comfortable with their position when they were forced to cancel the remaining fish fries of 2020. Although disappointing to have one of the largest community events at our church cancelled, it was a good year to test the water and get their toes wet for the new leaders. Steve and Pat wanted to thank all of the chairpeople and parishioners who volunteered and helped make the condensed 2020 OLV Lenten fish fries a success.

FFHS Senior Zierden Enjoys Church AV Work By Tom Hintgen

Our Lady of Victory School alumna and Fergus Falls High School senior Jade Zierden says that volunteering with Audio Visual (AV) work on Sundays provides a way for her to contribute to the Mass in a personal and fulfilling way. "My brothers sing and play guitar in the choir, but for me being in front of a lot of people has never been my favorite thing to do," she said. "That's why AV works well for me." Jade says that AV has made her feel more connected to the church. "I play an important role that helps the congregation actively participate in the music and certain parts of the Mass," she said. Jade has many good memories from her years in which she attended Our Lady of Victory School where her mother, Tonya, is currently OLV principal.

"One of the most memorable things about OLV is Catholic Schools Week," she said. "That week was something everyone looked forward to because of all the fun memories made. We took trips to Andes Tower Hills, the bowling alley and to Skateland. It was a whole week of fun activities with our classmates." Another activity she looked forward to every year was the water fight during one of the last days of school. "We would go to the Athletic Park and play on the playground or fight with squirt guns." Jade said that other activities such as the marathon and the OLV school play also made her Catholic school experience one to remember. Next year her plans call for majoring in mathematics and playing hockey at Augsburg University in the Twin Cities. This past year Jade was captain of the Fergus Falls Otter girls' volleyball and hockey teams. A year ago the hockey team won the consolation title in the girls Class A state hockey tournament in St. Paul.



Jade Zierden operating AV equipment at one of the 2020 Sunday Masses.

Beauty From Ashes

By Chaplain Deb Forstner, OLV Parishioner

ISAIAH 61: 1, 3 He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Beauty from Ashes... a wonderful Scripture phrase. How can beauty be found from the preparation and restrictions related to the COVID-19 virus? We love our Mass, and the beauty and freedom we typically have of potentially receiving daily or at minimum weekly Eucharist. My first response was to mourn the fact that cancellation of Masses took place during Lent and through Holy Week and Easter. The stay at home order is a time like Jesus being in the desert, and putting ourselves into the Holy Saturday tomb of waiting. I think with excitement how wonderful it will be the first time we gather again as a community for Mass. I am guessing our senses will be heightened in that celebration and we will be less likely to take that privilege for granted.

At the hospital, I have seen beauty instead of ashes in the cooperative, skillful leadership of several key players working in their lane of expertise and communicating with the whole. I sincerely sing their praises and feel no spirit of despair because of their skills. At Mill Street Residence, where I typically lead a Bible Study of close to 30 in attendance, we made plans to divide the groups into 3 groups of 10. In a smaller group, a man who is typically silent due to communication limits resulting from stroke, pantomimed in such a way that we could understand him and address his questions and concerns. We also usually use song books at Bible Study, but did not pass them out for fear of spreading germs. This man gestured wondering if we were going to sing, and seemed content as he mouthed along with our singing of the old favorite, Jesus Loves Me. Unfortunately, now there are no group activities at all recommended. Instead, I will be bringing Bible Study and prayer suggestions around to each person's mail basket.

So, we do the best we can in the situation we have. I have seen many inspirational messages online. Here is one I particularly liked - Also Highly Contagious: Kindness; Patience; Love; Enthusiasm; and a Positive Attitude. Don't wait to catch it from others. Be the carrier!
As Fr. Bill is fond of saying, Amen, Amen, Amen!

LENTEN MISSION WITH FATHER MARK STANG

By Mary Waller

From March 7-10, 2020, the Pelican Valley Catholic Community was host to Father Mark Stang with a message of "Trans-figure me, O God". Father Mark is a chaplain at Saint. Cloud Hospital. Mark was raised a Minnesota farm boy in a large Catholic family. He struggled with learning

and was painfully shy, but relished in the Rosary and other practices of faith. His hopes of becoming a farmer weren't to be, so he went to school and became an agronomist. He sang praises of the many tutors and spiritual mentors throughout his life. "But God kept calling me." After working as an agronomist and farming with his father, he surrendered to the call and attended seminary. He didn't think he'd last long, but completed his studies after seven years. As he was preparing for his ordination, he received the stark diagnosis of Lymphoma. Treatments at Mayo made him sick, lose his hair and struggle with God. It was a "dark time". He wasn't responding to treatment and his doctor wanted him to have a bone marrow transplant. His bishop petitioned Rome to move up the ordination. Mark asked to delay treatments so he could feel stronger for the ordination; six weeks was negotiated. Through prayer, he prepared himself. At the ordination service, "My message to the

congregation was, first of all, I can't thank you enough for all of your prayers. And, I said, that my cancer is a gift, and that a miracle has taken place in my soul. I was learning humility, and I could see my weakness and my brokenness." Mark's next CT scan was clean. His cancer was gone. In the years since then, Mark has served many congregations in the Saint Cloud diocese. During that time, he would fill in as priest back-up at the St Cloud Hospital. His own experience as a patient gave him insight in being the one lying in the hospital bed. His message to us: We are all healers. We are called and gifted at Baptism. We must pray, and figure out how we can be present for those around us. We can experience the healing of self, the healing of family. We must be Jesus to others. SURRENDER... LISTEN... SHARE. *You, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8.*



Kris' Food Crusade for Kids

By Deacon Dean Pawlowski

The OLV Social Concerns Committee has been active for five years. Our mission is to create an awareness of social concern issues and, most importantly, benefit the community in which we live. One of the first community needs the committee recognized centered on providing meals to children and their families when school was not in session. During the school year, children receive regular meals, but this is not the case during the summer. Our committee wanted to find a way to bring food to children and their families in need during the summer months. In the first summer of this program, the committee delivered food to 15 children. During the past two summers, we have been blessed to deliver food to over 50 children and their families. There are many ways to measure the success of this program, and children having food is only one measure of success. This program also provides spiritual nourishment for the children and their families as they see the giving nature of others in their community. The program also nourishes the people who deliver the food as they see the joy in the hearts of the family members in receiving even the littlest amount of food. It is not uncommon for people to break down when they receive food and for words of gratitude and blessings to be exchanged during the delivery of food.

Two of the committee's members, Kris and Julie Dahl, have enjoyed delivering food. They found that this program feeds them spiritually. They found so much joy in their hearts that they have been a part of this program for the past three years. Helping these children and their families meant so much to them that when Kris passed away unexpectedly this past year, Julie asked that any charitable giving that were given on Kris' behalf go to this program. In memory of Kris' giving nature, the Social Concerns Committee formally named this program "Kris' Food Crusade for Kids." If you feel inspired to help contribute

or deliver food as a part of this program, please contact Julie Dahl or Deacon Dean Pawlowski.



Kris Dahl

OLV School History

By Tom Hintgen



Former OLV School classmates, from left to right: Gary Jennen, Michelle Simons, and Richard Tomhave

In mid-March Gary Jennen, Michelle Simons Lindquist and Richard Tomhave paused after Mass in front of Our Lady of Victory School and recalled the fall of 1956 when the school opened its doors for the first time. These three parishioners became OLV students as fourth graders for the 1956-57 school year. Each of them had previously attended public school in first through third grade.

"This school has certainly withstood the test of time," said Jennen. "The school was built very well back in the 1950s, and that's reflective of what we have today." During the first three years of operation, OLV School conducted classes for grades one through six. The school also had classes for seventh and eighth graders from 1960 to 1968.

During the 1960s all classes, with the exception of the seventh-grade teacher, Karleen Wollmering, were taught by the Franciscan Sisters whose campus and retirement home is in Little Falls. The convent which housed the sisters was in the northwest section of the block, where the church is now located. The old OLV church was in the opposite section of the block, where the school playground is now situated.

Sister Adela Gross, formerly known as Sister Mary Peter, was the eighth-grade teacher and principal for Jennen, Lindquist and Tomhave in 1960-61. She currently resides at the retirement home in Little Falls.

"It's amazing that our eighth-grade year was 59 years ago," Lindquist said. Students were required to have number 2 pencils and were supplied with penmanship pens. There were plas-

tic-composite desks with chrome legs. Those were the days of the Cold War between the United States and Russia. OLV students had classroom breaks when they were served half pints of milk. Lindquist remembers recess when, on nice winter days, OLV students would shoot marbles. "We had our own little marble tournaments," she says. Jennen recalls the same playground where students played dodgeball, had hula hoops and more than one student had a Yo-Yo, a toy consisting of an axle connected to two disks and a string looped around the axle. "We played king of the hill during the winter where we had snow piles near the school," Jennen recalled. "The playground, early on, was gravel covered so that in the spring we could make river dams in the gravel."

Houses were on the north side of the school, to the east of the convent. The parish rectory was north of the old church, on Vine Street. There was another house north of the rectory. Many OLV School alums also recall fun times in the 1950s and 1960s over the noon hour at the nearby Athletic Park where soccer was popular. A few kids at the park even snuck in three-inch-long cap guns which were toy guns that created loud sounds and a puff of smoke.

Gary, Michelle and Richard, whose children also attended classes at Our Lady of Victory School, give rave reviews to lunchroom director Esther Spranger. She cooked turkey dinners, with all the trimmings, prior to the Thanksgiving break. Their class also had a great basketball player, the late Tony Silbernagel. In those days, in the early 1960s, there was a traveling seventh and eighth grade basketball team, coached by John Schrom.

There also were OLV cheerleaders. OLV played other area Catholic schools on Sunday afternoons, including parochial schools in Breckenridge, Barnesville, Perham, Morris and Wadena. The late Mike Wilkinson, OLV class of 1962, also was a star basketball player. Many former OLV students such as Linda Earle Lorenz, a member of the OLV class of 1962, recall the eighth-grade class trips to Duluth, shortly before graduation. "I still have photos of that trip to Duluth, and have good memories of my education at Our Lady of Victory School," says Lorentz, a current resident of Alexandria. Former OLV altar boys recall fourth

grade teacher, Sister Mary Christine, teaching Latin to them over the noon hours. Those were the days of the Latin Masses. This changed in 1962, following the Second Vatican Council, with the Mass changing worldwide from Latin to vernacular languages. The Mass thus changed to English in the United States.

OLV School also had a school safety patrol when students entered crosswalks before and after school. Many students also were members of Boy Scout Troop 312, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Scoutmaster in the late 1950s and early 1960s was Tom Donoho. Former scouts remember fundraising pancake and sausage feeds held at the OLV cafeteria on some weekday evenings. They were highly successful, raising money for scout trips to Camp Wilderness in both the summer and winter. Tom Hintgen, author of this article, fondly remembers his years at OLV School from third through eighth grade, from 1956-57 to 1961-62.



Sr. Adela Gross, FKA Sr. Mary Peter
Former 8th Grade teacher and school principal of OLV School



Josh & Krystal Crance

Josh and Krystal Crance moved to Fergus Falls from Watertown, South Dakota. Krystal grew up on a farm SW of Fergus and they were married at OLV in 2013. They have two children, Gabriel (5) and Ariana (2). Josh is working on Krystal's family farm, Lacey Ridge Farm. He previously was a full-time firefighter and paramedic. Krystal is a nurse at Lake Region Healthcare. She completed RCIA and was welcomed into the church five years ago. They love exploring the outdoors as a family. Welcome to Our Lady of Victory!



Bob & Amy Woods

Bob and Amy are retired and now enjoy having the time to travel and do the hobbies they put on hold while raising 5 children. Part of their travel is visiting children and grandchildren in Baltimore, Savannah, and Denver as well as those in Minnesota. They have 8 grandchildren and another expected in April. People have told them that they are a little nuts for doing the reverse retirement plan: they moved from Arizona to Minnesota! But they love the four seasons and can always escape to the South when they have had enough of the cold! They now love a good blizzard because they don't have to try to get to work! Welcome to OLV, Bob and Amy!



Anne Bratton

Anne Bratton moved back to Fergus Falls from Rochester, MN. There she taught English learners at Mayo High School. Prior to that she was a first and second grade teacher at OLV School for 26 years. Upon retiring, she and her husband Ron decided to move back to Fergus Falls to be near family. Anne has 2 adult children living in Fergus Falls. Allison is married to Matt Harrington and they have three children; the two younger ones attend OLV School. Her son Chris Derosier is married to Sarah Hoffbeck Derosier. Welcome back to OLV, Anne!

A World Of Hearts By Diane Aschnewitz

Heading to work one morning in Mid-March, the air felt a bit uneasy with the COVID-19 stay at home order. Trying to put into perspective what the new normal would be as more of us would be working from home or not working at all. The reality of not having access to Sunday Eucharist brought the feeling of loss, disconnect and sorrow. At a stop sign as I looked for traffic and a window display caught my eye. In the picture window, the family had hung a paper cross at the bottom corner from which colorful hearts of various sizes seemed to rise upwards to the opposite corner. That simple view brought an immediate sense of peace and a quiet voice that repeated "I am here, Be not afraid". Later that morning I sent a text to my girls sharing the window art and how it was so inspiring and brought peace to an otherwise unsettled day. Stacie told me about the #worldofhearts movement that was all over FaceBook, but since I had logged off for Lent, I was clueless. We laughed at my ignorance and before long the girls were sending pictures of various window displays that had been posted all over the world. That excitement of creating something of our own began to grow and creating something to share at the church took root. After discussing with Fr. Alan, he gave the okay to create something in the window. The idea was to expand on the cross and hearts theme, but then Stacie shared a silhouette of Jesus with hearts which we all agreed was the favorite, but we wondered what window would accommodate the change in design. Then we received the news that with the shelter in place order, the church would be closed to the public the following Friday. Our thoughts shifted to how we could create something outside, visible from the street. Jeff came up with the idea of using the backdrops we had been

Formation In Faith: Children's Mass At Our Lady of Victory School by Alyssa Fearing

Our Lady of Victory is a special place, a holy environment that nurtures the faith of its students. Weekly school mass is one of the many ways such development is made possible.

During the week we have a children's mass on Friday at 9:00 a.m. This community worship service makes use of The Lectionary for Masses with Children, which provides liturgy that children can easily understand with relevant themes for every day of the year. Examples of these themes include "Love Everyone," "Forgive One Another," and "Give Thanks to God." The children's mass also uses a special book called Rise Up and Sing. This collection of songs is written to be accessible for children, with lyrics that are clear in glorifying God.

From kindergarten to sixth grade, the classes of Our Lady of Victory take turns hosting mass. Our students become servant leaders as they volunteer for a variety of duties, including introducing the mass, announcing songs, reading the Old Testament scripture and responsorial psalm, praying petitions, and carrying the gifts for Eucharist. Such duties require preparation, so the class responsible for any week's mass meets in the sanctuary to practice their parts many times before Friday. This means that, while younger students are usually nervous to lead mass, sixth graders have had years of encouragement from their teachers, allowing them to take on these duties with faithful confidence.

Throughout the school year, students will learn different Mass liturgies and get opportunities to joyfully sing in a variety of ways including using actions, clapping along, or even singing in a round with the entire congregation. All students diligently prepare these songs for mass during music class, but third through sixth graders are offered the additional opportunity of joining choir. These students sit at the front of the sanctuary, their voices amplified by the

Reflections of an Old Man

This Little Light

By Lee Krogh

Rare is the Sunday when I don't go home from Mass with words to think about. Whether they come from one of the readings or from Father Alan's homily (or both), and whether I agree with them or not, those words stick in my mind. As the old saying goes, they provide "food for thought."

This was especially true in two of the readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time. I'll save the first (Isaiah 58:7-10) for a future "Reflection" and focus this time on the second, (Matthew 5:13-15): "You are the light of the world...your light must shine before others".

Those words made me think immediately about that simple, wonderful little tune, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." Some time later, it occurred to me that I hadn't been doing a very good job of doing that over the past six months. Despite the fact that my post-operative experience was almost painless and I was eating well, receiving excellent care, and enjoying fantastic support from my family and friends, my chief concern was my own plight. Yes, I tried to put on a brave face, but I usually added some kind of "poor me" comment behind it.

No, I never asked myself "Why me?" After all, I've lived long enough to know that things like this are always happening to someone, so "why NOT me?" might be a better question. After all, when it came right down to it, I had little to complain about. Hadn't I enjoyed nearly 75 years without having spent a night in a hospital? And hadn't it been a blessing to have played both golf and tennis into my 80's? Not many guys have it better than that! But that was then, and this was now! And right now, the little light that was in me was not only little, but practically non-existent.

Not that my light was ever a beacon to guide the way to others. I freely admit that, even though it's been featured prominently in the kitchen of our home for nearly 50 years, I haven't always been the shining example of an adherent to the Prayer of St. Francis. But that's not my point. My point is that those words from St. Matthew on the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time are excellent examples of how Sunday's words seldom fail to provide the food for thought that help make my life—and, hopefully, that of those around me—a better one. Those words also have caused me to hope I can keep a promise to myself that...this little light of mine, I'm going (to try my prayerful best) to let it shine!

microphones as they lead mass through musical liturgy and meaningful worship songs, all of which relate to that week's homily and theme.

Growing in faith continues to be a priority at Our Lady of Victory School. Many children will agree that giving them an opportunity to assist with the mass not only boosts their confidence, but strengthens their personal relationship with God. What a meaningful opportunity! Certainly, we are humbled and honored by what is achieved at Our Lady of Victory Church and School.



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. (when there is 9:00 a.m. Mass)
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

Continued From Page 10



storing from the Jerusalem Encounter play some 15 years ago, and with a little repair work, we had a blank canvas. Father Alan gave the go ahead with a request to include the Sacred Heart and Our Lady. As we continued to think of ways to incorporate both images, it was an email from Father Todd Schneider that inspired the final design. His email encouraged each household to display the image of the Divine Mercy much the same as the door posts were marked at the first Passover.

Those of us with cricut machines cut the hearts and then laminated to help protect against the elements. The silhouette was painted and Jeff shared his gift of servitude and patience as he dug out, loaded and unloaded the backdrops, finally asking Brad to help with the final setup. The girls provided encouragement from a socially acceptable distance as Stacie and I hung the finishing touches.

Our prayer throughout the process, was for the Spirit to guide, asking that He would multiply our meager gifts, bring a smile, a sense of hope, and a renewed trust in the glory of God to others. We are thankful for the how one family's window display of faith set into motion a collaboration of ideas from several different households allowing the sharing of combined gifts to create a visual display of hope in the goodness of God's Mercy during this unusual Lenten journey.