

THE JOURNEY

Fall 2020

Our Lady of Victory Parish Newsletter

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

A MESSAGE FROM FR. PATRICK



Fr. Patrick Hoeft

What a joy it has been getting to know the people of this community!

I've felt warmly welcomed and have been slowly getting to know more and more people. Many of you I've seen on the way out the door after Mass, some of you I've had the chance to stop and have a conversation with, and I've even been invited to visit some of you at your homes as well. This area is feeling more like home every day.

I'm also aware that there are many parishioners whom I haven't had the chance to meet yet due to concerns regarding the virus and being out in public. I thought I would take this opportunity to greet all of you and to express my hope that eventually the circumstances will allow us to meet each other.

I'm happy to meet anyone who would like a visit...whether it's by greeting you at your front door or even through a phone conversation. Feel free to leave me a message at

the church number or to contact me through email if this is of interest to you.

Usually this is the time of year when I return to school for another year of studies. But for the first time in my living memory I am staying put. Therefore, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to get to know everyone in this parish cluster. Know of my prayers for you, and please say a prayer for me as well!

God bless,
Fr. Patrick Hoeft



Fr. Patrick and Fr. Alan at Outdoor Mass - Photo by Rachel Tuel

New Beginnings in Ministry



On June 30, 2020 at noon, Bishop Kettler's new assignments for priests officially took effect. At 12:05 PM, the first concelebrated Mass took place with our Pastor of the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community, Fr. Alan Wielinski, and our Parochial Vicar (also known as Associate Pastor), Fr. Patrick Hoefft. Please enjoy these pictures from that joyous and historic occasion!



BAPTISMS

NEW
MEMBER

We are pleased to announce the baptisms of seven children of God at Our Lady of Victory parish!

June 21st

Amelia Lorraine Deyoung Parents: Jason Deyoung and Rebecca Larson

June 26th

Solvie Ann Everts Parents: Ambrose and Jessica Everts

July 4th

McKenna Grace Kerrigan Parents: Marc Kerrigan and Danielle Sullivan

July 26th

Lilly Marie Rogholt Parents: James and Elizabeth Rogholt

August 2nd

Corabelle Marie Brause Parents: Benjamin and Kelsey Brause

August 23rd

Charli Jean Revering Parents: Charles and Tami Revering

September 5th

Casey Joseph Quackenbush Parents: Corey and Stacie Quackenbush

Congratulations and God's continued blessings!



MARY
KUEHN

Mary Kuehn
(pronounced



'keen') is a retired registered nurse whose husband passed away two years ago. She has seven children, including two sets of twins! They are all married with families. Mary was a member of St. James Church at Maine, but her move to Fergus Falls brought her to Our Lady of Victory. We are happy to have her here! Welcome, Mary!

Meals by Wheels Delivers More Than Food

By Julie Dahl



Bob & Jo Weatherly

Our Lady of Victory participates with other churches in Fergus Falls in the Meals by Wheels Program, each church taking turns delivering meals to local homebound residents. Participating churches deliver quarterly, bringing meals right up to a resident's front door. One of the very best parts of delivering meals is developing relationships with people we might otherwise have never met

because they are homebound. The smiles on the recipients' faces and the gratitude they express is often not just for the meal itself but for the volunteer driver's short visit to their home. The volunteer drivers usually have one or two primary routes so they are able to get to know the people they deliver meals to better.

These short visits also provide a great opportunity to check in on the residents, especially during this time of Covid and quarantining, when the homebound have even fewer people visiting them. One of these visits in particular was especially impactful. Bob and Jo Weatherly deliver meals together. In June, they stopped to deliver a meal to an elderly woman on their route who lives alone. Bob knocked on the door and thought it was unusual when the woman did not come right away as she typically did. He thought he heard the faint yelp of her dog but listened more closely and

realized it was a soft yell for "help." Bob tried to open all four doors to her home, which were unfortunately locked. He then called 911 and the ambulance and police came. The lady had fallen and was unable to get up. Thankfully, Bob and Jo were there to hear her cry for help and get the assistance she needed.

Providing a meal, safety check, and a quick visit only takes a few moments, but it makes a huge difference to someone who is homebound. If you are able to help, we would love for you to join us! Meals are picked up at the Senior Center, and Covid precautions are practiced with the pick up and delivery of meals. We want to protect ourselves as well as the homebound, who are among the most vulnerable to the virus. Pick up is at 11:00, and routes are usually completed within 30-40 minutes. Please contact Julie Dahl at (804) 714-9026 or eightdahls@gmail.com if you are able to help.

RCIA NEW CATHOLICS

This year we have three new Catholics in our midst. Two men and one woman completed their formation through RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Here is a bit of background on each of them.

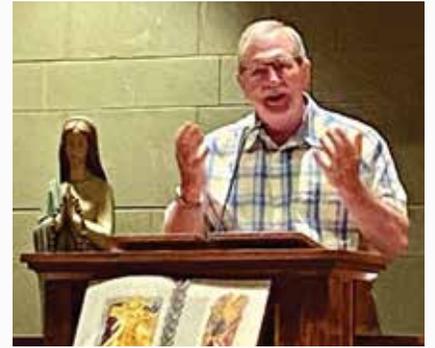
Curt Krabbenhoft began attending Our Lady of Victory in the spring of 2016 when he met Mardel Robinson, who became his wife at a ceremony at OLV in the fall of 2017. Curt says, "With Mardel's help, Father Alan's and the Holy Spirit I was moved to join the Catholic Church. The parish has always felt very welcoming." Curt has felt very fortunate to start his RCIA involvement at OLV and to continue it at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish in Scottsdale, Arizona during the winter season. Our RCIA director, Mammias H. Mammias, maintained the continuity in Curt's formation by traveling to Scottsdale in February to visit Curt and Mardel and teach a session to their RCIA community.

Amber Niemi recently moved with her daughters Ashtynn and Taylor to Fergus Falls from Detroit Lakes. Already prior to their move they started attending Our Lady of Victory at the invitation of Amber's significant other, Steve Koep. In

a short time OLV "felt like home and the Catholic faith felt like the missing piece in my life." Amber is excited and anxious for her welcome into the Church. "With the help of Mammias, Father Alan, my sponsors Steve and Lone Koep, and the wonderful parishioners of Our Lady of Victory my faith and love for the Lord has grown tremendously."

James Rogholt and his wife of six years, Elise, adopted their daughter Lilly who is now four years old and attends the Learning Ladder Preschool at the OLV School. James is looking forward to continuing to grow in his faith with the Our Lady of Victory community. When he is not busy working fulltime at RDO Equipment as a Service Manager, he likes to spend time with his family going fishing, playing outside, being at the lake, and going to the races.

A Mass at OLV the evening of June 25th joyfully welcomed these members with the Sacrament of Confirmation and their First Holy Communion. Gifts of a silver Tau Cross from Rome, blessed by Pope Francis, and an icon of the Holy Family were presented to the new members as a sign of welcome and gratefulness that they have chosen to join our community.



OLV John Schmidt, OLV Trustee, enthusiastically welcoming our new members



OLV James Rogholt and his wife/sponsor Elizabeth Rogholt



OLV Sponsor Mardel Krabbenhoft with her husband Curtis Krabbenhoft



Left to right back, Steve Koep, Amber Niemi, Lone Koep; Front, Taylor and Ashtynn Niemi



From Left to Right: Fr. Alan Wielinski, Curt Krabbenhoft, Amber Niemi, James Rogholt, Mammias Mammias

The Bishops' Letter on the Topic of Racism

By Deb Forstner, Journey Editor



that his or her race or ethnic group is superior, and that other races or ethnicities are not worthy of being regarded equally. The document states, "Racist acts are sinful because they violate justice" (p. 3).

The bishops note that we are all children of God, made equally in God's image. Scripture informs us that we are to accept one another as sisters and brothers. But sometimes, racism is boldly sinful with symbols of hate like swastikas and nooses. It can also come in the form of discrimination, racial profiling, and harassment. And yet, it also comes through omission, by "individuals, communities, and even churches" remaining silent and failing to act against racial injustice (p. 4).

This pastoral letter is not the first time the bishops have weighed in against racism. In 1958, the bishops wrote against segregation and "Jim Crow" laws in a publication called *Discrimination and Christian Conscience*. In 1968 and again in 1979, the bishops published letters about the ongoing impact of racism in policies and through institutional, economic imbalances.

In *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the bishops called for "genuine conversion of heart" in order to change individuals, reform institutions, and to make society more free, equal, and justice for all. Pope Francis reinforces the importance that ongoing conversion is meant for all by stating in *Evangelii Gaudium* that no one should "think that this invitation is not meant for him or her" (p. 7).

The USCCB letter points out that many groups (including but not limited to Irish, Italians, Mexicans, Poles, Japanese, Chinese, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Jews) have historical and contemporary stories of bigotry and injustice. The letter goes into the most depth regarding the experiences of the Native, African, and Hispanic Americans.

The Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace notes that, citing Scripture, there is "total incompatibility between racist exclusivism and the universal calling of all to the same salvation in Jesus Christ." The bishops challenge us to break silence around the issue of racism, to find new and creative ways to raise awareness, to analyze curricula (in religious education, Catholic schools, and Catholic publishing), and to promote the dignity of all in our families (p. 26).

At times we may encounter people who are so strongly prejudiced, we may feel that their hearts are "frozen by the sin of racism." Yet, the bishops note that we "must never cease to invite and encourage them in love to abandon these sinful thoughts and destructive ways" through the power of the Gospel (p. 29). With the Catholic Church's commitment to life, they note the following: "The injustice and harm racism causes are an attack on human life... Racism directly places brother and sister against each other, violating the dignity inherent in each person" (p. 30).

The letter closes with a prayer asking Our Blessed Mother Mary to intercede on our behalf. Here is part of that prayer:

"We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society. We ask for your help in following your Son so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts, but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person" (pp. 31-32).

If you are interested in reading this pastoral letter in its entirety, it is available at the OLV office, or online by doing a search under "Open Wide Our Hearts."

"Let us open wide our hearts," are the quoted words of St. Katharine Drexel, who lived from 1858 to 1955. Katharine, the heiress to a banking fortune, made life choices, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to become the American founder of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters for Indians and Colored People (now Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament), a congregation of missionary nuns dedicated to the welfare of American Indians and African Americans. Sister Katharine was canonized in October 2000, and is considered the patron saint of racial justice and of philanthropists. This quote from St. Katharine inspired the title of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter against racism. The letter, developed by the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, is known as *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*. It received approval by the full body of bishops as a formal statement in November 2018. The document is available to read in full on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The purpose of this article is to provide readers a summary of some of the pastoral letter's key points.

Open Wide Our Hearts identifies racism as a "particularly destructive and persistent form of evil." It goes on to define racism as being present when a person holds, consciously or unconsciously,

Synopsis of Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love (USCCB, 2018)

By Amy Auzenne, MSW, MACE

Editor's Note – Amy Auzenne, Pastoral Associate for Formation and Evangelization at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in Spring, Texas, holds Master's Degrees in Social Work and Christian Education. Amy was part of a Zoom presentation about the Bishop's Letter on Racism known as *Open Wide Our Hearts*. Her verbal summary of the letter was so well put, that the Journey Editor asked if she would put it in writing for publication here. The following is that summary which Amy so graciously shared with us.

Racism is a sin, and an old sin at that. We are created in the likeness and image of God, and endowed by our Creator with an inviolable human dignity. When we attempt to raise our own worth by demeaning another person, we fall into the sin of Cain, who killed his own brother out of spite and jealousy. *"Every racist act – every such comment, every joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity, or place of origin – is a failure to acknowledge another person as a sister or brother, created in the image of God."* (*Open Wide Our Hearts*)

To be delivered from the sin of racism, we must undergo a conversion of heart. Racism is a spiritual problem that manifests itself in injustice, prejudice, and oppression. To combat these evils in society, we must first root them out of our own hearts. The prophet Micah gives us the formula for this conversion:

"You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you:

Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Do justice. Justice requires us to name what is unjust, and confront it with truth and courage. As human institutions, our nation, our society, and even the Church herself have been complicit in acts of racial injustice. Although many ethnic and racial groups have at times been targets of racism, African Americans, Latinx people, and Native Americans continue to be wounded by the sin of systematic racism in our country.

"[T]he experiences of Native, African, and Hispanic Americans demonstrate how, as a nation, we have never sufficiently contended with the impact of overt racism. Nor have we spent necessary time to examine where the racist attitudes of yesterday have become a permanent part of our perceptions, practices, and policies of today . . ." (*Open Wide Our Hearts*)



Love goodness. To confront racism, we must first break open our hearts and allow God to show us how this sin has formed (and deformed) our own perceptions. We must learn how to love ourselves and others as God does. This love will lead us to insist on systems that respect the dignity of all people, and resist any pressure to demean human worth. This work will not make us comfortable – but it will surely make us holy. *"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing."* (St. Katherine Drexel, quoted in *Open Wide Our Hearts*)

Walk humbly with God. In love and humility, we must call out the sin of racism in our systems and institutions – but first, we must seek forgiveness and conversion for the racism we find in our own hearts. *"For there is no place for racism in the hearts of any person; it is a perversion of the Lord's will for men and women, all of whom were made in God's image and likeness. We end by adopting the words of St. Paul: Brothers and sisters, 'be on your guard, and stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love.' (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)"* (*Open Wide Our Hearts*)



Welcome Back

By Rachel Cox

As we're told in Ecclesiastes, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." It is clear that a new season is approaching. The weather is getting colder and students are returning to the halls of OLV School.

We are welcoming our students back for the 2020-2021 school year amidst a season of change. This will likely be a school year like no other. Students, teachers, and staff alike are grateful to start this year in our school building and are working with the challenges that COVID created. Outdoor gym classes, lunches in the classrooms, and masks are all indicators of the changes that come with this new COVID season.

In addition to the changes resulting from COVID, the school made some fun and exciting updates. We brightened up our hallways with fresh, new paint thanks to many volunteers who helped throughout the summer. We have a new faculty member, Nina Clark. She is teaching music and supervising kids club. Another big change in the school office is a new student information system, which helps streamline student records, communicate with parents more effectively, and a host of many other features to make the school office run more efficiently.

What remains the same through all the change is our mission to empower students to be lifelong learners, dedicated to living out Catholic values. Despite all the changes in our world right now, we can still see smiling eyes, hear laughter of friends, and create excitement for learning. While this season has brought many challenges, it is sure to bring many blessings as well.

St. Francis of Assisi: Feast Day October 4th

By Tom Hintgen



Pope Francis and St. Francis

Pope chose name Francis after saint who ministered to the poor

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, elected pope on March 13, 2013, was the first person in papal history to choose the name Francis. His name is in honor of St. Francis of Assisi who had a special place in his heart for the poor and who loved to minister to the poor.

During his first papal audience, on March 16, 2013, Pope Francis, 76, expressed his admiration for St. Francis of Assisi who lived from 1182 to 1226. "Assisi served the poor and changed history," Pope Francis said.

Our pope's official name is Pope Francis, not Francis I. The name would become Francis I if and when there is a Francis II. This is the first time since Pope Lando's reign in 913-914 that a serving pope holds a name not used as a predecessor.

Seven years ago, the new pope, following the example of St. Francis, announced that he would live in a small suite at the Vatican instead of the apostolic palace. He usually celebrates Mass and gives a homily at his residence.

In Argentina, when he served

as Cardinal Bergoglio, he lived in a modest apartment, did his own cooking and took public transportation. Bergoglio resided in Olivos on the Rio de la Plata region of South America.

On the first Holy Thursday following his election as pope, Francis washed and kissed the feet of ten juvenile offenders, male and female, who were in detention. Two of them, one male and one female, were Muslim.

During the past seven years Pope Francis has stated that the poor, instead of being shunned, should be treasured. He praises Catholics all over the world who care for the poor and all people in need, reflecting on the works of St. Francis. "When the poor knock on our doors, let us welcome their cry for help," Pope Francis says. "Let us see this as a summons to help those in need."

Earlier this year, at the onset of COVID-19 all around the world, Pope Francis urged people to "not forget the poor during this time of crisis."

More about St. Francis

Eight centuries have gone by since St. Francis of Assisi founded the Franciscan friars in 1209. Francis had many roles, as an Italian Catholic friar (brother), deacon, philosopher, mystic and preacher. He was inspired to devote himself to a life of poverty.

Embracing poverty, in the 13th century, was seen as a radical notion at the time. But that's when Francis and his followers, fellow friars, set out on a mission to restore what they considered to be Christ's own original values.

Francis lived with lepers and cared for them. He and his followers had a philosophy of "serving the poorest of the poor."

In 1212 Francis organized a second order, one for women, that became known as the Poor Clares.

Francis also is the saint of ecology and animals. Many people

believe that, in some ways, St. Francis of Assisi could be viewed as the original Earth Day advocate. "Not only did he care for the poor and sick, but he preached multiple sermons on animals," said one Vatican historian. "He wanted all creatures on earth, including humans, to be treated as equals under God." Many of his sermons included stories about birds, fish and rabbits.

Francis was only 44 when he died on Oct. 3, 1226, in Assisi, Italy. He was canonized as a saint just two years after his passing, by Pope Gregory IX.

Fr. Alan reminds members of OLV that he was educated in grade school by Franciscan sisters. "I gleaned from them a love for St. Francis and St. Clare. She was one of the first followers of Francis," Fr. Alan said.

Fr. Alan took Francis as his confirmation name, adding that he admires Francis' radical embrace of poverty and emphasis on peacemaking.



This cross is prominently displayed in Fr. Alan's home. Known as the San Damiano Cross, St. Francis, in his early 20's, heard God speaking to him from this cross, saying, "Rebuild my church."

Favorite Scripture Verses and Why

Submitted by Rosemary Griffin

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

I am always inspired by this verse from Paul's letter to the Philippians because it speaks to the power of our thoughts influencing our behavior. Lifting our minds to the higher good, to what is the best of the best, calls us to put aside the pettiness and ill-will that can destroy our happiness and our relationships. Garbage in, garbage out. Beauty in, beauty out. A person's face radiates the goodness within. We are what we think about! Think about such things!

Submitted by Jennifer Dummer

It's a tough choice to pick just one but I always go back to **Luke 1:26-38** the Annunciation, specifically the three phrases I have highlighted in the passage below. The reason why this passage is my favorite is as follows: Just as Mary is called to serve God in a special way, we too are called by God to serve him in a way that is unique to us. The angel Gabriel reassures Mary, "Do not be afraid". These words of encouragement are also meant for us, letting us know that we too should not be afraid to follow and serve Christ. For when we obey the Lord "nothing will be impossible for God". We only need to accept and say "Yes" to God's plan for our lives, sharing in Mary's words "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word".

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and

bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

This scripture has such a special meaning in my life that I chose this passage as the gospel reading at my infant daughter Rosemary's funeral mass. Every time I hear it proclaimed at Mass (most often on a Marian feast day) I think of Rosemary.

Submitted by Diane Aschnewitz

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (21) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

I was given this verse to pray during a retreat led by a group of Nuns several years ago. My prayer had been to be shown a way to express my love for Christ through prayer and action. This verse has given me courage to step out in faith in areas I do not feel qualified.

WinGS Group verse:

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

This verse was chosen by the group when it was formed, as a basis for the WinGS' name & logo (Walking as Women in God's Spirit), along with the prayer "Holy Spirit,

Dwell within Us, Keep us Humble, Keep us Pure".

Submitted by Jeff Aschnewitz

James 1:22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

This verse came to me while I was preparing to give a talk at a REC (Residents Encounter Christ) weekend, The theme of hearing the word and not acting upon it does no good, the word is to be shared through action and prayer with others not just yourself, kept coming to mind. This was the verse that gave direction to my talk and how I strive to live my life.

St Joseph's Men Group verse

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This verse was chosen by the group to reflect how to follow St Joseph the Worker, in living a vibrant Catholic life. Their motto is "Let no man leave unchanged."

Submitted by Darlene Draeger

Ever since this whole corona virus thing started all I could think of is "Be not afraid" so I started to look for that passage. The 1st one I came to is **Exodus chapter 20 verse 20** (2020 -coincidence or what?). Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come in this way to show you His awesome power, so that from now on you will be afraid to sin against Him." The phrase "Do not be afraid" is in the Bible 365 times. One for each day of the year as God tells us to trust in Him and to do His will.

Submitted by Gerry Leonard

Several Scripture verses stand out to me. The one that presently stands out because of the turmoil our country is going through is:

2nd Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray

Continued on Pg 9.

Scripture Verses - from P 8.

and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
Amen.

Submitted by Peggy Rezac

Psalm 46:10 *Be still, and know that I am God.*

Our world today doesn't know stillness. We are always connected to our world. What do we reach for: our phone, our TV, our computer, our radio? From our rising in the morning to our end of day we have constant noise and our thoughts are always spinning with the news of the day!

But wait, God is call to us!

"Be Still" Disconnect, Calm your thoughts, Close your eyes, Breathe, Now Listen to God's creation. Birds singing, rain drops falling, wind in the trees. Listen to the silence! It may be hard at first but it gets easier! Be Still!

"Know that I am God" All powerful, All knowing, Holy is His name, Surrendering to His plan for you. Giving Him your worries, accepting His Peace and Stillness! For God is our refuge and our strength and only God can give you the peace that you search for if only you will **"Be still, and know that I am God"**

Submitted by Marcy Otto-Scheutze

Michah 6:8-9 *What does the Lord require of you? To do Justice, to Love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.*

I've liked this Bible passage since the first time I saw it. I have it posted on my microwave and read it often.

Submitted by Craig Hebert

Isaiah 43:2 *When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you.*

I like this verse because it reminds me that no matter what we go through, God is with us.

From the Editor: Thanks to all for these beautiful submissions! If as you read them, you think of a Scripture verse you'd like to be highlighted in a future issue, submit it to daforstner@gmail.com. God bless and keep you in His Word!

ST. OTTO'S CEMETERY

By **Connie Graff**

You may be wondering why the Catholic cemetery in Fergus Falls is named St. Otto's when the church is named Our Lady of Victory? Here's the answer to that riddle! From 1890-1906 both the church and the cemetery were known as St. Otto's. When the church changed its name to Our Lady of Victory in 1906, the parish chose to keep the cemetery name as St. Otto's.

OLV's website describes St. Otto's Cemetery as providing a "history of people and a record of yesterday, as well as a sanctuary of peace and quiet." It truly is a lovely setting due to the volunteers from OLV parish who maintain our cemetery. Just as homeowners must keep up with seasonal yard work, the cemetery grounds must be mowed and trimmed, leaves raked, sticks and branches picked up, trees trimmed, and snow removed for winter burials. Volunteers also maintain record keeping, provide information to those who are interested in purchasing a burial site, measure plot size for burials, and communicate with area funeral homes. Keeping our cemetery beautiful is a ministry that is meaningful to the volunteers who strive to make it a lovely, peaceful, and sacred place. Jerry Neuleib says he volunteers his time because his granddaughter is buried there, and he wants it to look nice and peaceful. "I feel at peace when I am working out there," said Jerry. Jerry recruited his wife, Alice, daughter Heather, and grandchildren Sam, Emma and Ella



to a full day of work this past spring. A multi-generational example of service! Diane Scott also volunteers her time in keeping the cemetery looking beautiful and feels it says a lot about OLV as a parish, that members place a high value on maintaining its cemetery. "It's a lot of work to keep St Otto's looking beautiful," said Diane. "I have loved ones buried here, and not only do I enjoy time spent at the cemetery, I believe volunteering here is the best way to honor my family members. The more volunteers we have, the better, and if people aren't able to volunteer their time, donations are always welcome for the expenses we have."

If you have not visited St. Otto's, I encourage you to explore its beauty. The driveway that winds through the cemetery allows for a wonderful walking path, and the benches by the crucifix provide a place to rest and have a conversation with Jesus.

If you're interested in devoting time to the upkeep of St. Otto's or have questions, contact Mark Graff at 205-0528 or Diane Scott at 736-7247. Information is also available on OLV's website.

OUTDOOR MASS



Pat Tuel, Matthew, Fr. Patrick, Lucas, Fr. Alan, Rachel Tuel

On September 1st, an Outdoor Mass was celebrated with members of the Our Lady of Victory Community in the beautiful Erhard Hills. The setting was at the home of Dennis and Kris Tuel, and hosted by Pat and Rachel Tuel. Their two boys, Matthew and Lucas, were our altar servers. Cookies and beverages were provided by the OLV Stewardship Committee. The view was breathtaking, and the fellowship blessed.

Perpetual Light

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

By Connie Graff

In this edition of *The Journey*, a new column featuring those who have gone before us debuts. The title "Perpetual Light" was chosen for this column because we believe God's perfect light shines on those who have died. This reoccurring article will feature memories and the stories of loved ones who are buried at St. Otto's cemetery. You may recognize and remember those described here, or you may not know them at all. Regardless, we ask that when you are finished reading about them, that you offer a prayer for the repose of their soul and for peace and comfort for all who loved them.

Jeff and Leslie Jennen shared sweet memories of their first born child, Leah Mary. "Leah loved to dance, especially in her pink ballerina costume. Anytime music would play, she would break into a dance and even danced in the rain where she didn't need music! She had a lovely singing voice with perfect pitch and could sing every song from the movie "Little Mermaid". Leah was the best big sister to her younger brother, Alexander, and included him in all of her games. She even was able to pull him into her imaginary stories and mini plays".

Leah loved spending time with her grandparents, riding in the boat and swimming with Grandma and Grandpa Palmer and riding horses with Grandma and Grandpa Jennen. Beyond her family members, she left a lasting impression on others due to her cheerful and upbeat attitude on life. Even a short encounter with Leah resulted in her making you smile.

"Leah taught us to stand strong in adversity, how short and precious life can be and how every moment is an opportunity to make someone's day brighter" say her parents. Pretty impressive lessons from a 4-year-old! These words engraved on Leah's tombstone ring oh so true: "There is



no hand so small that it cannot leave an imprint on the world".

Jean Rustand shared memories of her parents, Palmer and Frances Thorson. "They both grew up on family farms and were married in 1950. They raised their 10 children on a working farm in Douglas County and in 1974 moved to Fergus Falls. We were brought up with Christian values, to be truthful, kind and respectful of others. To this day we have a very close family, thanks to our Mom and Dad. If Dad could've had his way, the kids would've never left the farm! Mom and Dad were hard-working parents. I'm sure farm life wasn't easy with all the field work,



animals, gardening and raising kids, but we never heard them complain. Weneverquestionedtheirloveforus."

Jean also shared memories of her sister who is buried near her parents. "Our sister, Julie and her twin sister Judy were born in 1967. We were so excited to have twins! Julie grew up in our loving home, living life in a big, happy family. She was killed in an airplane accident in February 1987, at the age of 19, which devastated our family. She was a happy, funny, fun-loving daughter and sister who loved life. Taken way too soon, she will be forever loved and missed".

NOTE: Palmer and Frances's children include Derald Thorson, Delphine Steiner, Jean Rustand, Margaret Fredrickson, Della Hulter, Marcia Schauff, Harold Thorson, Judy Zenner, Julie Thorson(deceased), Gerald Thorson.

Many thanks to Jeff, Leslie, and Jean for sharing their memories. If you're interested in sharing the story of your loved one buried at St Otto's in a future edition, contact Connie Graff at connie.graff1206@gmail.com.

REMEMBER! This is the Beginning of the Life of Fr. Bill

*How many times our memory fails and we are forced to send belated greetings to someone. On this page of **The Journey**, Billy Gamber is found sitting as a baby on his mother's lap between his sister and brother, with his arms extended (Ecclesia Orans), as the priest does during Mass. His dear mother was prompted to say: "I believe Billy was destined as a baby to become a priest."*

*Belated greetings!
Fr. Bill Gamber*



A Little Bit Every Day: Catholic Media

By Craig Hebert

How do you eat an elephant? As the old proverb says, one bite at a time! So it can be as a member of the Catholic Church. What should I know and do to fulfill my role and to live my life as a faithful member of the Mystical Body of Christ? To guide us, we have the magisterium and Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. But I'm busy, where do I start? Start with a little bit, every day.

The hurried pace of our lives (and our present condition during the COVID-19 pandemic) often overtakes our wants and abilities to learn about our faith. There are, however, some wonderful and easily-accessible sources of Catholic information, education, and entertainment available on radio, television, social media, and the internet.

You can begin by merely reading the newsletter or going to the websites and Facebook pages for the parishes in our Pelican Valley Catholic Community. A link to Formed (formed.org) where you can find Catholic movies, books, and programs is on the Our Lady of Victory website (ffolvchurfh.org). Note: Our Lady of Victory School has its own website (ffolvschool.org). Stay in the know about our parish school where the next generation of Catholic faithful are being formed!

The magazine of the Diocese of St. Cloud, *The Central Minnesota Catholic*, highlights people living out our faith in the diocese in addition to question and answer articles relating to current events and social teaching. The diocese also has its own website (stcdio.org) that's full of information and links to events, education opportunities, ministries, and news.

On the radio in our area, you will find stations that are specifically Catholic and offer dozens of shows. Relevant Radio stations can be found here:

- 1180 AM, KYES, St. Cloud – Rockville
- 93.5 FM, K228FV, St. Joseph
- 100.3 FM, KXPM-LP, Perham

Real Presence Radio, an affiliate of Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) Global Catholic Radio, can be found on 1280 AM, KVXR, Fargo.

Each of these stations can also be accessed online via streaming from their websites. SiriusXM Satellite Radio offers EWTN Radio on channel 130 and the Catholic Channel on channel 129.

Programming on cable and satellite television in our area comes from EWTN where its vast offerings can be found on Charter / Spectrum, Park Region Telecom, DirectTV, and DISH.

The internet is where we can really get into this learning-about-my-faith thing. However, caution and discretion are advised because, contrary to popular belief, not all things on the internet are true. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published "Protocol for Catholic Media Programming and Media Outlets" concerning the regulation of websites and other media sources which claim to be Catholic. If there is any question, consult their guidance.

If you have specific interests, just "google" them. For example, if you are a hunter, try "Catholic hunter." You'll find everything from ethics to patron saints (St. Hubert, for example). Interested in viewing the Easter Vigil live from the Vatican? Or news from a Catholic perspective? Daily Mass? Interactive call-in shows? The Holy Rosary? Apologetics? It's all there and more.

Go and explore. It is almost certain that you will find many minutes (or hours!) will have passed when you start to look. If you need a start, here are a few places to check out:

- **Catholic World Report** (catholicworldreport.com): Global Church news and views.
- **ChurchPOP** (churchpop.com): Fun and faithful content for the social media age.
- **Catholic Exchange** (catholicexchange.com): Articles and tools for spiritual growth. For "those who live busy lives but still seek to grow in friendship with Christ."
- **Morning Offering** (morningoffering.com): Concise

daily devotional emails that include wisdom and quotes from the saints, Mass readings and homily, saints days and feast days, Liturgy of the Hours and verse of the day, and monthly devotions and intentions of the Holy Father.

- **Get Fed** (getfed.com): "... a blog designed to help you stay connected and encouraged."
 - **Simply Catholic** (simplycatholic.com): Catholic living, home and family, world and culture, prayer and inspiration.
 - **Augustine Institute** (augustineinstitute.org): Source of "innovative and engaging materials that help all Catholics deepen their relationship with God and His Church to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Formed.org is part of the Augustine Institute.
 - **Catholics Come Home** (catholicscomehome.org) "... dedicated to helping people home to the Catholic Church."
- Today's mobile devices allow us to access our favorite Catholic resources almost any time and anywhere. There are many applications (apps) for us to explore. A few worth mentioning are:
- **Laudate**: The classic, all encompassing Catholic app.
 - **Relevant Radio and EWTN**: Catholic podcasts in an app.
 - **Pray As You Go**: Music, contemplation exercises, audio Rosary and Stations of the Cross, and more.

An excerpt from the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* helps sum things up, "...the Catholic Church offers a message that is not its own, but comes from God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ two thousand years ago, yet is ever new and renewing as it is received, celebrated, lived, and contemplated today."

It is when we know our faith and know how to live our faith that we truly realize our calling as members of Christ's body. Continue your journey – a little bit, every day.

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

REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD MAN

by Lee Krogh

The Greatest of These

"Fear not," said the angel to the shepherds on the occasion of Christ's birth. "Do not be afraid," said Jesus to Peter as he and the other disciples cried out in fear at His walking on the stormy water.

Those words, and words like them, appear throughout the Bible. And I know they're meant for me. ***Nonetheless, I fear.*** Not for myself, but for my country.

I'm aware of, and admire greatly, the countless deeds of bravery and self-sacrifice by first responders, medical personnel, service workers, and the men and women who bring me my newspaper, mail and groceries.

And still, I fear.

Why? Because of the hatred I see and hear all around me. Hatred that threatens to drown out the goodness. Hate from talk show hosts, bloggers, social media, politicians, even some of my friends. Hate for people of different colors, races, nationalities, religious beliefs, customs, manner of dress, lifestyle, sexual orientation, manner of speech and political beliefs. Even for hairstyles and people who wear or do not wear masks!

Hate! That's not what the Second Commandment, the Parable of the Good Samaritan or Christ's injunction to love my enemy tells me to do. In fact, they tell me just the opposite. ***They tell me that love, not hate, must reign in my heart!***

An important election looms within a month of this publication's release. All of us have valid social, economic and moral reasons for our vote. Mine will be to do what little I can to stem the tide of hate that is causing my fear. I will, therefore, vote for candidates whose words and actions embody the basic tenets upon which I live my life as a Christian, none of which includes hatred. In short, my vote will be cast for those who profess love for all their brothers and sisters.

Which brings me to my favorite Biblical passage. It's from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, 13:1-3.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. So faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these is love.